

Derek Smith: The Enforcer

2nd Class Postage
Dated Material • Please Rush

CELTIC PRIDE



CP973994
FRANK SIRACUSA
1824 N. 78TH AVENUE
ELMWOOD PARK, IL 60635
07/10

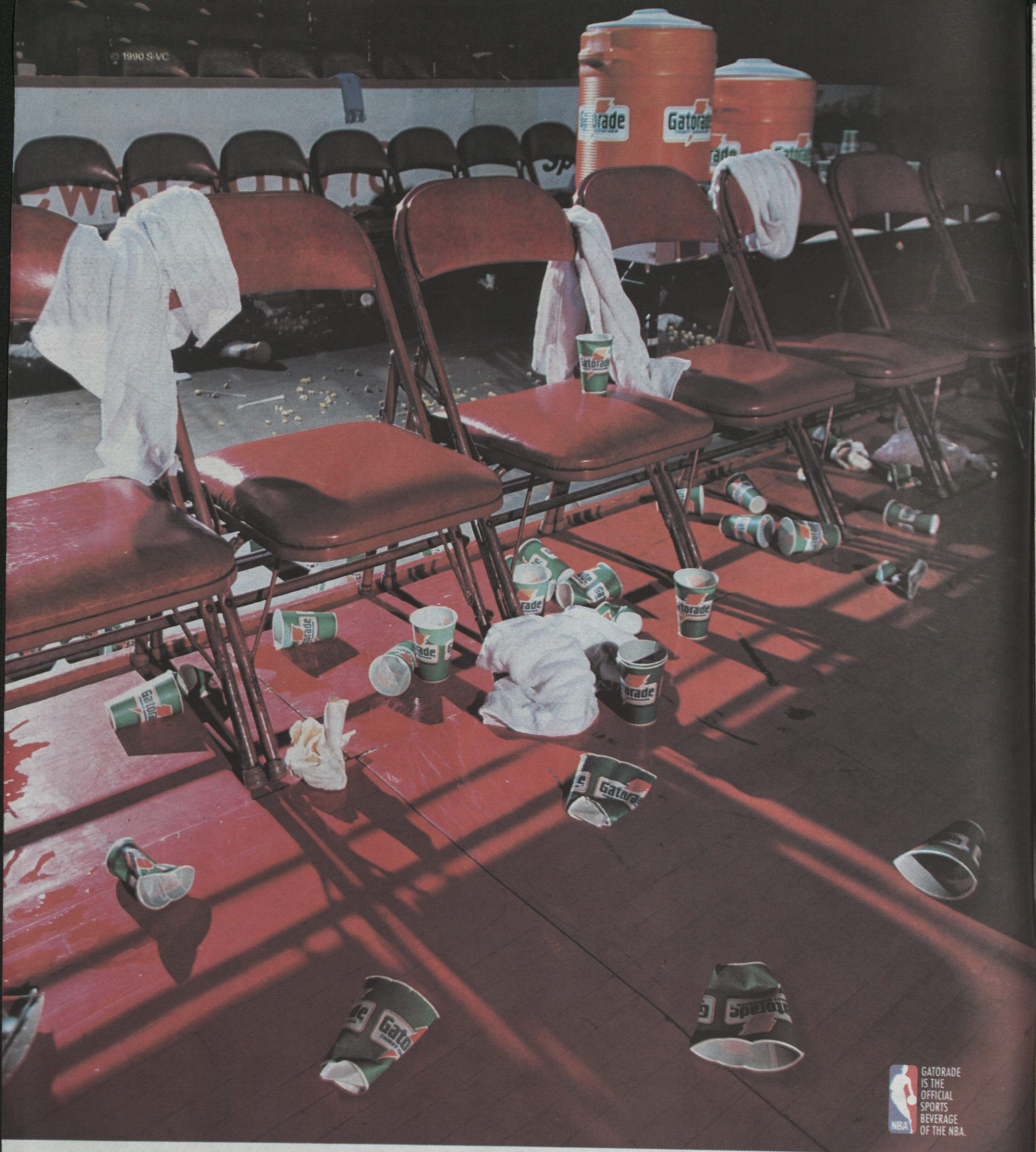
And The Legend Grows...

Volume 6, Issue 13

May 24, 1991

\$3.00





The success of any team can be attributed to the strength of their bench.

CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 6 Issue 13
Number 113
May 24, 1991



Cover.....

7Larry Gives Celts A Lift In Playoffs

In his eleventh NBA season, three championships and MVP awards behind him, among a treasure full of other designations, it again has come down to Larry Bird. Larry was nothing less than heroic in the Indiana series and although he is struggling with the most serious injury of his illustrious career, Bird still has his sights set on the title. Cover photography by Steve Lipofsky.

Features.....

12Derek Is Eager To Contribute

After proving himself to be a defensive force by slowing down the red-hot Chuck Person in the opening series with the Pacers, Derek Smith is anxious to further show what he can do for the Celtics. The emergence of Smith as a valuable force in the playoffs could prove to be extremely important to the Celts' success in the latter rounds of the playoffs.

20 & 21...Surviving The Pressure

Brian Shaw is in a tough position in a tough town. The young point guard has been under the microscope during the playoffs and Brian has had to absorb more than his share of criticism. Nevertheless, Brian sees the playoffs as a valuable learning experience and continues to give it 100%, just as he's done all season long.

Departments.....

- 4 — Coaches Corner
- 5 — Color It Green
- 6 — Halfcourt Press
- 11 — Red On Roundball
- 13 — Innerview
- 14 — Double Dribbles
- 17 — Celtics Confidential
- 18 — NBA Notebook
- 22 — Game By Game
- 26 — The Fan's Eyview

All photography in this magazine is shot on Kodak film.

Sound Off.....

Poetic Justice

Dear Sound Off,
I just got through watching Larry Bird's gutsy performance against the Indiana Pacers in their first playoff game! You could tell he was in pain. I wish Bird well and hope he can continue to play and lead the Celts to #17! With him on the court, I feel the Celtics are virtually unbeatable! I do think, though, that the Celtics are a good team without him and they could win if they would get it through their heads they could. Heaven forbid they'll have to do without him, though! I was a Celtics fan before Bird, but I have really been a Celtics fan since Bird! I have been to see them play in Atlanta a few times, since that's the closest place to me. I am still trying to get to the famed Boston Garden before it and Bird are gone! I hope to this next season!! Best of luck and good health wishes to the Celtics in this year's playoffs!! Keep up the good work in Celtics Pride!

Ann Sherrill
Manchester, TN

P.S. I am not a poet, but enclosed is a poem I wrote.

Celtic greats, McHale, Parish and Bird.

Championship banners, their first, second and third.

On their shoulders, the team rides.

In search of their fourth banner to hang in the skies.

Pride, mystique, ghosts they say,

Are in their home — the Boston Garden Parquet.

Many championship banners hang high.

Another to hang there, so hard will they try.

With Shaw, Gamble, Lewis and Brown,

The Celtics will try and rule their town.

Aching and sore, and vulnerable some say,

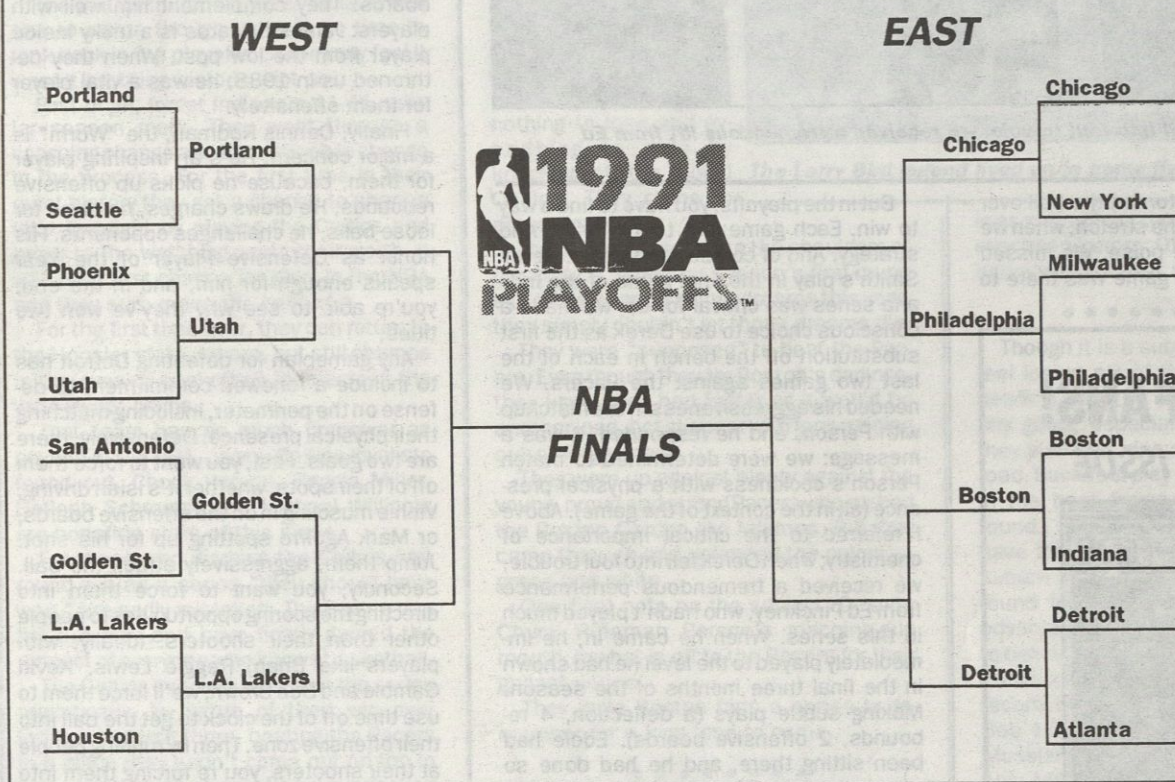
The Celtics will never give up, no way!

They will fight until the end.

And as Celtics' fans we all hope they will win!

Good Luck Celtics, Let the Pride ride High!!

The 1991 NBA Playoffs



A Weston Communications Publication

PUBLISHER
Porter C. McKinnon
Weston Communications Inc.
85 Old Long Ridge Rd.
Stamford, CT 06903
(203) 329-2000

MANAGING EDITOR
Porter McKinnon

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Sherry Davis

ADVERTISING & MARKETING OFFICE
ProMar
11661 San Vicente Blvd.
Suite 402
Los Angeles, CA 90049
(213) 447-5903

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Mark Lev
(617) 523-6050

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
Michael Fuchs

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Steve Lipofsky

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Dave Boag



**Volume 6
Issue 13
Number 113**

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Red Auerbach
James Vujis
Chris Ford
Bob Schron
Glenn Rifkin
Mike Spellman

PRODUCTION
Bob Childs
James Vujis
P.J. Uva

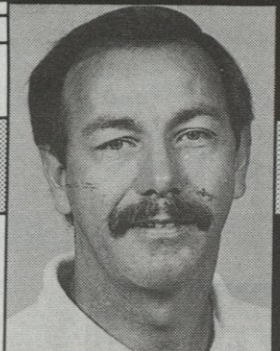
CUSTOMER SERVICE
Maria Hill
(203) 329-2000

Celtics Pride (ISSN 0897-8379) is published twice per month during the basketball season (October through May), and monthly in the off-season (June through September), for a total of 20 issues each year, by Weston Communications, Inc., 85 Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903. Second Class postage is paid at Stamford, CT and additional entry offices. Subscription rate is \$30.00 for 20 issues (1 year). Canadian subscriptions are \$55.00 (US\$) for 20 issues.

Postmaster, please send address changes to Celtics Pride, 85 Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903. All Rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited. ©1990 WESTON COMMUNICATIONS, INC.



May 24, 1991



By Chris Ford

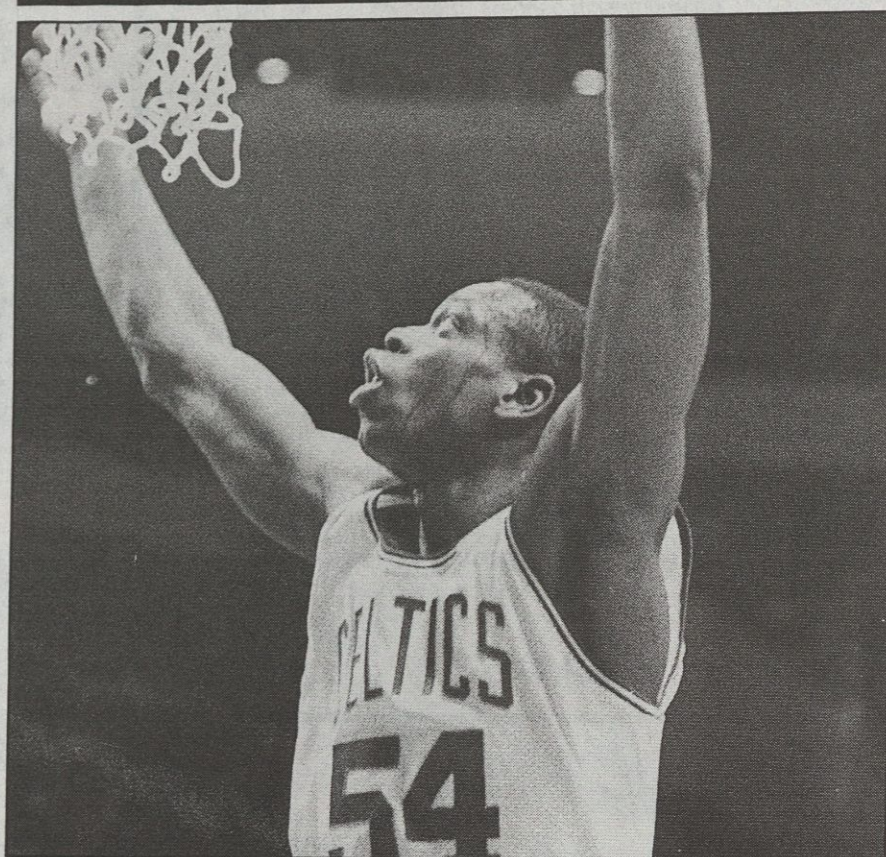
Coaches Corner

Up Against Detroit

One day after we defeated the Indiana Pacers, we are now looking ahead. If we endured an emotional series against the Indiana Pacers, we understand the necessity of being primed to play another intense series against the Detroit Pistons.

In the NBA, we often talk about intensity. And chemistry. I think what you saw in the Pacers' series was a case of a young team, already playing very well, raising their game to another level because they saw an opportunity to make a name for themselves against the Boston Celtics. What we needed to do was to combat that, match that fire. Chuck Person came into his own as a star in that series, and players like Detlef Schrempf reached a national audience for the first time. At the beginning of that series, we discussed how difficult it would be for us to match up with Schrempf, for example. I thought our teamwork was good enough to survive it against him. Yet, in the playoffs, intensity and the fire of the moment brings out the best in other guys. Person was talking a lot, but he backed it up. Others found room to star too, like Michael Williams.

What I respected most of our group was that in the final test, we gutted it out. I talked about "survival of the fittest" after Game Four in Indiana, when they had again come back to beat us, 116-113, the second time they had defeated us in that fashion on their home floor this season. We didn't do a lot of things right in Game



When Derek Smith fell into foul trouble, we received a tremendous lift from Ed Pinckney.

Five. But we won. We turned the ball over too many times down the stretch, when we needed to show more poise. We missed free throws, when the game was there to be put away.

But in the playoffs, you have to find a way to win. Each game is a test of wills. And strategy. And of course, personnel. Derek Smith's play in the final game of the Indiana series was critical for us; we made a conscious choice to use Derek as the first substitution off the bench in each of the last two games against the Pacers. We needed his aggressiveness in the matchup with Person, and he responded. It was a message: we were determined to match Person's cockiness with a physical presence (all in the context of the game). Above I referred to the critical importance of chemistry; when Derek fell into foul trouble, we received a tremendous performance from Ed Pinckney, who hadn't played much in this series. When he came in, he immediately played to the level he had shown in the final three months of the season. Making subtle plays (a deflection, 4 rebounds, 2 offensive boards). Eddie had been sitting there, and he had done so uncomplainingly. It really says a considerable amount about his professionalism, which you hope for and expect, but there are too many instances where chemistry falls because of private sabotage. We said from December that we needed another player to win—and Derek Smith illustrated our thinking. In the final seconds of Game Five against Indiana, when they had shocked us by rallying from 11 down to 120-118 and they had the possession, we had Derek back in there to guard Chuck Person. Indiana went for the season then, a 3-pt FGA from Person, and we had Derek there to bump him off balance, and the shot missed.

Detroit. It's been a long time, perhaps never before, that a Celtic team would be aiming to unseat a two-time defending champion. Traditionally, we have been the

kingpins. I don't think anyone will doubt how much pride will be involved here. Chemistry is a factor, but in this situation, I think you'll see both teams fighting to their outer limit. Collectively, the nucleus of Boston has won three championships in the 1980's, Detroit two titles in 1989 and 1990. If there have been problems in the past, winning now will supersede jealousies. At least, that's what I expect.

Obviously, we think the performance of the Detroit guards will be what we'll have to watch for when we're defending. Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars are two of the best guards in this game. Vinnie Johnson hit the title-winning basket last season, and he's constantly haunted Boston. Where we've had success in the past (i.e., this season) has been running the basketball against them. I think they may have seen how a team can hurt us with traps—the Pacers forced reliable players like Brian Shaw and Larry Bird into forcing things against their press. We'll have to be under control, but we can negate their powerful presence in the backcourt if we maximize our advantage on the offensive end.

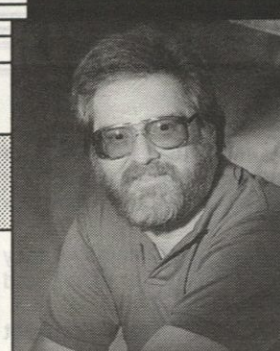
Detroit makes maximum use of an inside-outside threat, too. Bill Laimbeer presents a dual problem. He's a great defensive rebounder, but on offense, he hurts you from the outside in three ways. First, he spots up for a very good outside jumper. Secondly, he sets a strong pick for their two man game. Finally, he's experienced; he spaces the floor well for them and with good instinct, rushes in for offensive boards. They complement him well with players: James Edwards is a tricky inside player from the low post. When they dethroned us in 1988, he was a vital player for them offensively.

Finally, Dennis Rodman, the "Worm" is a major concern. He's an inspiring player for them, because he picks up offensive rebounds. He draws charges, he dives for loose balls, he challenges opponents. His honor as Defensive Player of the Year speaks enough for him, and in the end, you're able to see why they've won two titles.

Any gameplan for defeating Detroit has to include a renewed commitment to defense on the perimeter, including matching their physical presence. Defensively, there are two goals. First, you want to force them off of their spots, whether it's Isiah driving, Vinnie muscling in on the offensive boards, or Mark Aguirre spotting up for his shot. Jump them, aggressively attack the ball. Secondly, you want to force them into directing the scoring opportunities to people other than their shooters. Ideally, with players like Brian, Reggie Lewis, Kevin Gamble and Dee Brown, we'll force them to use time off of the clock to get the ball into their offensive zone. Then by running people at their shooters, you're forcing them into shots they don't want to take.

This is what the playoffs are about, because late in a season, with games having added up and the mental pressure the most stressful, in order to win, you must respond. That's the challenge. I was very proud of the team heralding into this series because I thought we had great courage, pulling together when many of our players were struggling. People are asking about our chances of winning, but now it's one series, and one game at a time.

There are a number of great stories. We rested our injured players in order to be prepared for the playoffs, including the veterans, who many predicted we would trade after losing to New York in 1990. I think those veterans, though they're fatigued, see a chance for vindication.



By Jim Bianchine

Color It Green

This Series Was One To Savor

I didn't respond, thinking it was a bit premature to count Bird out.

Following a 2-for-7 first half, Bird finished that game with a triple-double in leading the Celtics to victory. He went on to lead them to victory two more times and simply added yet another chapter in his legendary story.

Despite what the future holds for this team with the most storied past in NBA history, their first round achievement was worthy of its place in Celtics lore.

The Larry Bird legend lived on in game five and the rest of his gang will enjoy another playoff tomorrow because of their effort in a series many may never realize just how tough it really was.

Maybe greater than the matchup problems the Pacers presented was the mental approach each was forced by nature to take.

The Pacers really had nothing to lose and everything to gain by knocking off the fabled Celtics. They came in dreamers.

The pressure rested on the shoulders of the Celtics. After last season's first-round exit and a season of title dreams this year, they simply couldn't let those dreams die.

They were "supposed" to beat the Pacers. Even though they are Boston's darlings, they knew they had better or it would be another long, hot summer with fans running out of forgiveness.

They were up against plenty against the young, proud and strong Pacers who rushed the Boston Garden like Marines. But they came through and defended the colors—green and white.

One final note on the subject. Despite Chuck Rifleman Person's machine-gun mouth, my hat is off to the Pacers for their gallant series.

They gave Boston fans a series to remember for a long time to come.

Not just because he was a Laker did yours truly disagree with Jerry West on a recent national radio show. West, who played for and remembers some of the greatest teams in the sport's history, contends that the league is watered down due to expansion and simply not that strong.

Not true. Take for example what the Pacers, Hawks and Sonics did in the first round. The Pacers were fifth in the Central Division (41-41) and if a .500 team can be that tough, there are more good teams around than ever before. Quite frankly the expansion teams have not pulled the league down all that much at all. Orlando won 31 games in its second year. The Wolves won 29. Thus, I contend that there are fewer easy marks than ever before and the league

As the 1991 NBA Playoffs have proven in more than one first round battle, records don't amount to a hill of beans now, even the Boston baked variety.

The Celtics first-round triumph in a dramatic five-game series against Indiana, bitterly fought to the end, should NOT be underestimated.

Likewise, the triumphs by Portland (against Seattle) and Detroit (over Atlanta), each in five games, were well-earned.

Though I have covered the NBA since good cigars were only a nickel and Bonanza was the highest rated TV show, I have seen few as dramatic as Boston's epic win at the Boston Garden (124-121) against the Pacers.

It was a classic clash between a team desperately trying to earn a reputation against one hell-bent to preserve one. Blue collar against white all the way in the NBA world.

The Celtics triumph against Indiana was one to savor, though there is no time to look back in the playoffs. Some may feel it wasn't anything historic. Not so.

First of all, forget Indiana's 41-41 regular season mark. They went through a coaching change and dramatic style change in the process. For the first time in their quiet history they got a chance to share a little limelight by playing the Celtics and prove to the watching world their worth. It was their first chance for glory in the NBA and they sure made the best of it.

For the first time ever, they can return to the Hoosier state, losers, but still champs in the eyes of basketball fans across the wind-swept plains.

That team has as much firepower as anyone in the NBA, as you Celtics loyalists found out. Chuck Person, Reggie Miller, Detlef Schrempf and Michael Williams are bonafide stars of this game.

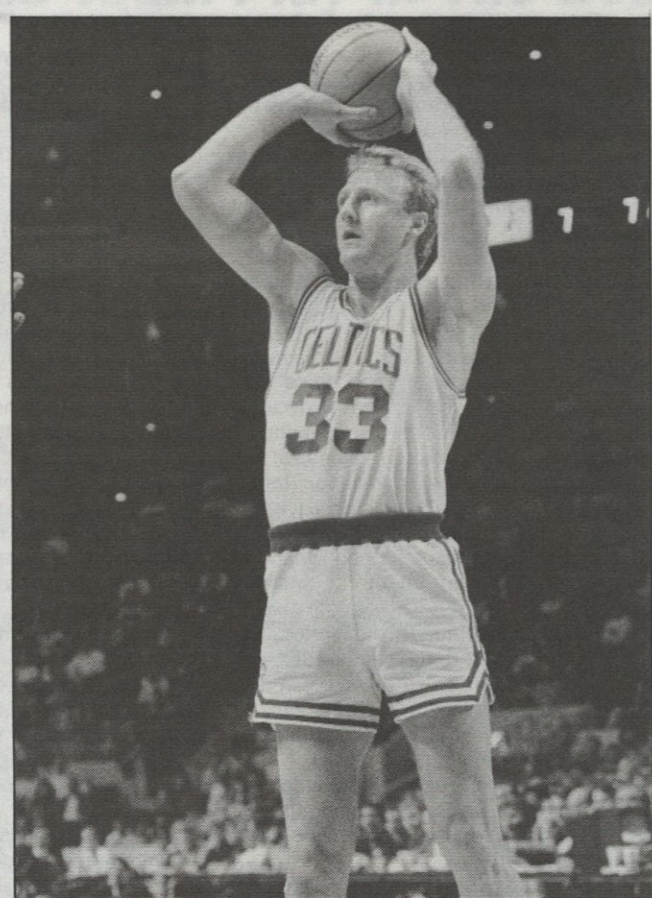
For those who dismiss the Celtics first round win as a series "they should have won," are sadly mistaken. The Pacers can flat out play and have finally gained the respect of everyone who knows basketball.

The Celtics may well have won the series realistically, by virtue of their win over Indiana in game three, beating the Pacers in a place they hadn't come out on top in two years, which shouldn't be overlooked when weighing out their first round achievement. They simply had to win in Market Square Arena and went out and got the job done.

While sitting courtside at one of the most intense struggles I've seen in many moons, I couldn't help but harken back to the opening game of the series.

I was sitting next to an esteemed colleague from the Boston Herald who leaned over to me early in the game when Person was getting the best of his showdown with Larry Bird and running his mouth, and said, "There was a day when Bird would just go out there and take care of guys like that on the court," he said, referring to Bird's jawing with Person.

"All that talk is just frustration because he can't do it anymore," he went on to say.



The Larry Bird legend lived on in game five.

is as strong from the top to bottom as it has ever been before. Of course, who wants to agree with a Laker anyhow.

Though it is a subject for debate, I don't feel losing six of their final eight games heading into the playoffs did the Celtics any good, especially when you consider they also lost nine of their final 11 on the road. Such foul play didn't exactly put them in the best frame of mind for the first round... For the record, the men in green have lost eight straight at the Palace in Auburn Hills, the home of their second round foes, Detroit. Oh that homecourt advantage in the playoffs... It is still hard to believe the Jazz beat the Suns 129-90 in Phoenix to begin the playoffs... For the record, the Pacers were 32-25 under coach Bob Hill... Despite 29 wins, coach Bill Musselman is out in Minnesota. In fact, only Matt Goukas is left as the original coach of the four expansion teams. The Wolves received a bonus for every win over 20... The Knicks 126-85 playoff loss to the Bulls in the first round was their worst post-season loss ever... The Bulls set a franchise record with 61 victories... How did the Sixers beat the Bucks twice at the Bradley Center in the playoffs when the Celtics can't get much closer than 20 points in Milwaukee?... Bird openly admits he has waited 12 years to play in Indiana in the playoffs... Golden State coach Don Nelson is a genius. After losing the first game in the opening round to the Spurs, he devised a plan with a small lineup and brought his pivot above the free throw line and took David Robinson away from the basket and out of their game. The rest is history in that series as the Warriors—without question

the league's scrappiest team—won, 3-1 to advance... The Warriors may have been involved in the single most meaningful game played in the NBA on the final day. They faced Utah, who was battling for the Midwest Division title. The Warriors not only had a say in which team won the Division (SA did by virtue of the Warriors beating Utah), but got to choose their first-round foe which turned out to be San Antonio by virtue of the win. They felt they matched up better against the Spurs and they were correct. The Spurs originally had the Warriors to thank for the Division crown, but later found out the method to Nelson's madness. By the way, the Warriors win also gave the Suns the homecourt advantage.

The Pacers' two playoff wins against the Celtics doubled their total in team history... Syracuse University star Billy Owens will forgo his senior year and is possibly the most versatile all-around player available in the NBA draft... Though so many people beat the drum for Dan Majerle to win the NBA Sixth-Man of the Year award, the right man (Schrempf) won it. Kevin Gamble was every bit the choice for the Most Improved Player award as the winner, Orlando's Scott Skiles... The Hawks dealt the Pistons their first opening round playoff loss in three years. They may well have blown the series when they failed to hold a 17-point second half lead in Game 3 in Atlanta... In previous years, when the Lakers were supposed to beat the Rockets, Houston came up with big wins in the playoffs in the underdog role. This season, with everyone figuring the Rockets had a great chance, didn't you just know the Lakers would beat them? It was a little surprising they swept them in three games in the first round, however.

After the first round of the 1991 NBA Playoff, the Lakers have 285 post-season wins, tops in the league. Boston is second with 263... Does Derek Smith remind you of one ML Carr? The towel-waving Carr was in the front row for Game 5 at the Garden against Indiana... Bird became the Celtics all-time leading playoff scorer following his 32-point performance in the finale of the series against the Pacers, passing Hondo. Havlicek held the record with 3,776 points... Philadelphia tied an NBA record with eight OT wins in the regular season and it was little surprise they won in OT in Milwaukee in Game 2 of their first round sweep of the Bucks. Philly's 14 regular-season OT's was an NBA record... In case you happen to have read the last installment of this column, forget the Suns chances of knocking off the Blazers. They never got the chance to faceoff because they couldn't get past Utah.

Just a passing thought—Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins is the classiest guy, win or lose, in the NBA... If you happened to see the final regular season game between the Sixers and the Celtics (or any other over the past two years), you will clearly see the two are no longer bitter rivals. They are slapping fives, helping each other up and show each other more respect and courtesy than ever before. Did you ever think you would see Rick Mahorn put his arm around Kevin McHale in the runway at the Spectrum when the two left after the final buzzer sounded? Me either... The Knicks went over the .500 mark at home for the first time all season when they beat Charlotte on the final day of the season. That had to contribute to the annual coaching search as Jon MacLeod was out at the season's end... Following 24-win season (lowest of the four new teams) Miami coach Ron

Continued on page 23...



BOSTON CELTICS FANS! DON'T MISS ANOTHER ISSUE

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO CELTICS PRIDE
The Official Newspaper
of the BOSTON CELTICS

EACH ISSUE INCLUDES:

Player Profiles • By the Numbers
Coaches Corner • Red Auerbach Column
Sound Off (Fan Letters to the Editor)
NBA Updates • Player Interviews
Yesterday's Heroes • Action Photography
Celtics Confidential

And More

Published twice each month during the season
and monthly in the offseason

20 Colorful Issues each year for \$30.00

Send your check or money order with the coupon below or use your VISA or MasterCard by calling toll free 1-800-255-9500, EXT. FAN
To order by Fax call 1-203-329-9126

Please Make Checks Payable to: CELTICS PRIDE

☐ I have added \$29.00 for First Class delivery

Name _____

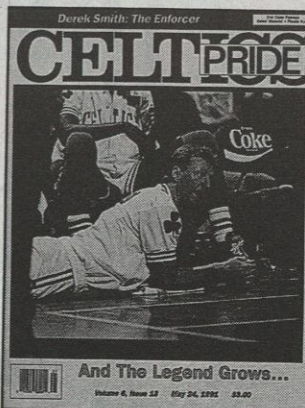
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

VISA/MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Daytime Phone _____

Mail to: CELTICS PRIDE, 85 Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903





By Kevin C. Doyle

Halfcourt Press

The Mystique That Shrouds The Garden Hasn't Disappeared

In each sport, there exists that single venue and the accompanying prime-time players that exemplify long-term success.

Baseball has Yankee Stadium, home to the Babe, the Iron Horse, the Yankee Clipper and the Mick.

Hockey's Forum in Montreal has played to the Rocket, Ken Dryden, Guy Lafleur and Larry Robinson.

In basketball, the hallowed hall has long been the Boston Garden and the likes of Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, John Havlicek and Dave Cowens. For the past decade or so, it has been the personal roost of one Larry Bird.

However, after years of treating the peculiar parquet with reverence, recent opponents had shown an increasing disdain for mythology and the lucky leprechauns scurrying about the old barn's nooks and crannies.

Look back no further than the decisive 121-114 Game Five loss to the Knicks in Boston last May.

Didn't think you'd forgotten that dark hour so quickly.

Ah, but rest easy, ye of faint heart and wavering allegiances — the mystique that shrouds the Garden hasn't disappeared altogether.

True, it required a Herculean performance by Bird, one of the game's reigning demigods, for the Celtics to scrape by the

brash, precocious Indiana Pacers in the first round of the second season.

But it was a performance woven from the fabric of which legends are made.

When Bird bounced off the deck while chasing a loose ball early in the second period of Game Five, injuring his right cheekbone, the Celtics' chances seemed tenuous at best. Sensing the opportunity, the Pacers wiped out a 10-point first-period gap (35-25) and forged a 58-58 tie by intermission.

When Bird remained in the lockerroom to start the second half, the Celtics' second straight first-round demise in a deciding fifth game at home seemed imminent.

The clubs parried through a series of ties while Bird was being tended to. Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, Reggie Lewis, Kevin Gamble, Brian Shaw, Dee Brown, Derek Smith and Ed Pinckney all had a hand in helping deflect the Pacers' numerous thrusts.

Then, midway through the period, the Pacers got the last thing they needed — a Bird sighting. He re-emerged from the midcourt runway, jogging determinedly to the bench as the Garden crowd erupted in a crescendo of applause.

Returning to the floor with 6:48 remaining in the third period, Bird proceeded to hit the Pacers with nearly 12 minutes of sustained fury.

In short order, he:

- snagged a rebound and fired a fullcourt pass to Reggie Lewis for a breakaway slam;
- spun around Detlef Schrempf for a

- reverse lay-in that resulted in a three-point play;
- threw in an off-balance turnaround jumper over Mike Sanders from the right baseline and converted the free throw for another three-point package;
- corralled a loose ball and sent Dee Brown away for another fastbreak lay-up;
- and hit two free throws in the final seconds of the period.

That burst, during which Bird scored 12 points and was directly responsible for setting up six others, drove the Celtics into a 100-91 lead after three periods, a bulge that peaked at 112-96 with a little more than seven minutes to play. At that point, Bird took a well-deserved respite.

All this from a man with a sore face and bad back, who had negligible practice time in more than a month.

"I took a nap and then woke up and decided to return," Larry kidded after the game.

"I was coming back no matter what. The fans were pumped up and I wasn't going to let them down. Emotion carried us through," said Bird, who passed Havlicek as the Celtics' all-time playoff scoring leader during the game.

His courageous performance impressed teammate and foe alike.

"I didn't know if Larry would come back. I didn't know he was coming back until I heard the crowd," said Celtics' coach Chris Ford.

"Larry is just amazing — he's truly the leader of the Celtics. Larry was absolutely spectacular, amazing, stupendous — I don't know what else," said Ford, smiling and shaking his head.

"Larry had an outstanding game — he played through the pain and he led us back," said Lewis.

"You've got to give a lot of credit to Larry. I just hope all of you people here (Boston) that see him all the time appreciate him and show him the respect he deserves. He is amazing the way he plays with all the adversity," said Indiana coach Bob Hill.

True, the final margin shrunk to a single point in the closing seconds as the Celts held on for the victory. But, Bird had long before delivered the decisive blows.

Sound familiar?

"Larry really came through, I have all the admiration in the world for him. He's a fantastic player. He was the greatest factor in this game," said the Pacers' trash-talking, hot-shooting Chuck Person, who nonetheless bowed out graciously.

In boxing, it is said that style makes fights and that was certainly true of this series. Worthy of championship stature, it alternated between a down-and-dirty slugfest to a you-can't-touch-this track meet.

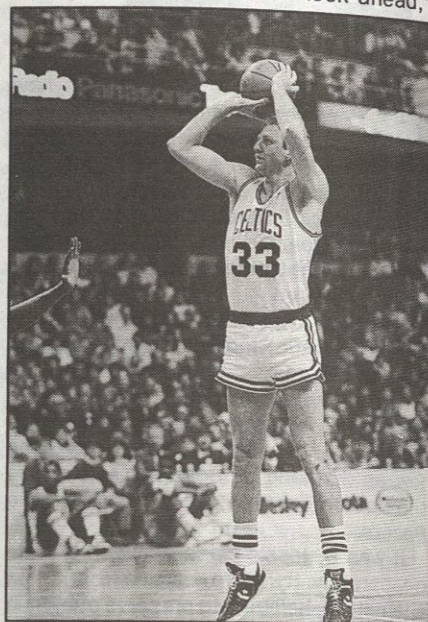
Give the Pacers credit and respect. They backed up their boasts with superior play. They felt from the outset they could beat the Celtics and nearly did so by combining seemingly computer-guided long-range bombing with a breakneck transition game and occasionally suffocating defense.

In the process they exposed some Celtics' weaknesses. When the Pacers went small and pressed, the Celtics often stalled and were unable to take care of the ball under fullcourt pressure. Boston also

continued the maddening tendency of melting the 24-second clock then settling for poor shots while trying to protect the lead.

"The Pacers gave us problems — they hung tough all the way to the wire," said Lewis.

"There were a lot of things that went wrong in this series because of Indiana. But, this game's history and the series is history — now we have to look ahead."



Bird: "I was coming back no matter what. The fans were pumped up and I wasn't going to let them down."

noted Ford.

"It's good to say good-bye to Indiana," said McHale. "We had our lapses, but overall we played well. But, we still have a long way to go."

Which brings us to the next opponent — two-time defending World Champion Detroit, trying to become the first team since the Celtics (1959-66) and only the third overall to win three straight titles.

It projects as an intriguing match, the first post-season encounter between the teams since Detroit posted a 3-0 first-round sweep in 1989.

There are many parallels.

Both teams suffered long-term injuries to their resident stars and struggled with Bird (back) and Isiah Thomas (wrist) out of the lineup.

The Pistons are now seriously thirtysomething with eight players — including Thomas (is that possible) — who have reached their 30th birthday. And, although the Celtics are younger, their Big Three are well into their 30s.

Make no mistake — this one will be a war and will depend on defense, on who wants to dig in, stand their ground and turn this into a battle of attrition.

The Celtics finished second in the NBA in opponents field goal percentage (.452) while the Pistons were tops in points allowed (96.8 ppg). Detroit held opponents to less than 100 points a staggering 51 times. The Pistons' woes rested with an offense that generated a meager 100.1 points a night.

However, while offense may excite the fans, defense wins championships.

Get used to few fastbreaks, fewer uncontested shots and tussles in the paint that more closely resemble hockey. It's a script likely to be repeated for six or seven games. Anything less would be a shock.

Kevin Doyle is the Sports Editor of the Newburyport Daily News, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Kevin is regularly assigned to cover the Boston Celtics.

CELTICS PRIDE

Larry Gives Celts A Lift In Playoffs

Bird's Return Improves Team Play In The Second Season

By Bob Schron

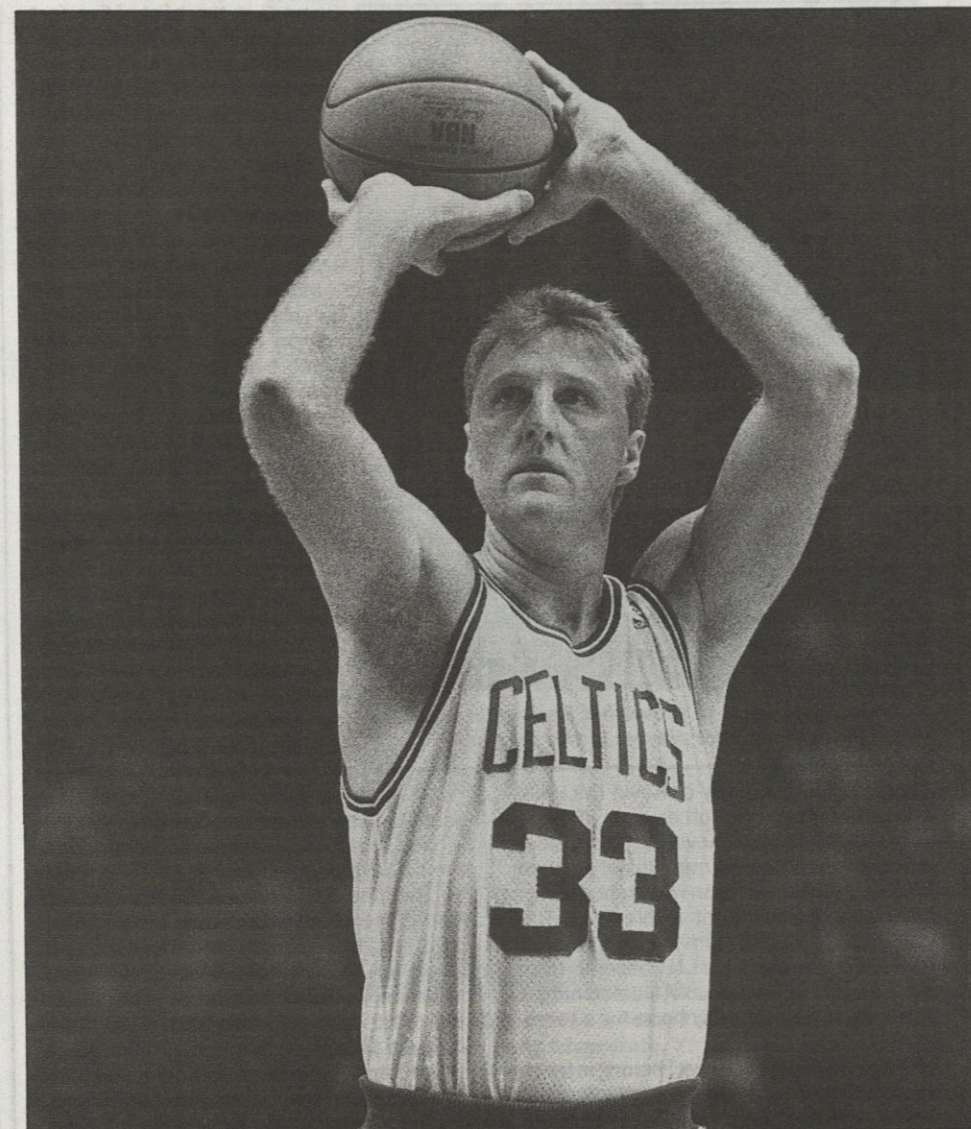
Bird Saves Celtics. Billboard advertising The Boston Globe above Massachusetts Turnpike.

In his eleventh National Basketball Association season, with three NBA titles and Most Valuable awards behind him, among a treasure full of other designations, it again has come down to Larry Bird. Like the deus ex machina in plays, Bird has apparently regrouped from the most serious injury of his career to lead the Celtics to their best effort in months during the initial stages of the playoffs. With the exception of the season finale against the underrated Atlanta Hawks, a 117-105 defeat to the hands of the Dominique Wilkins-led group, Bird missed every game during the final two weeks of the season. It had been reported by both Peter Vecsey of USA Today and Jackie MacMullan of The Boston Globe that Bird had consented to back surgery in the offseason, and although CEO Dave Gavitt denied it, the team was helping Bird finalize those plans. And as the Celtics wavered heading into the playoffs, a distorted mirror image of the unit who had blazed through the league with their 29-5 beginning this season, never had it been more critical for Bird to be out there for Boston. Bird had been playing his best basketball in these early stages, evoking memories of the powerful multidimensional presence he had been in the glory seasons, MVP, 1984 through 1986: perfect position rebounder, startling passer, the outside threat with the jumper, the four player teams found impossible to defend. Then, the proverbial dagger in the heart of the dream: Bird's back injury that would not quit.

"I don't want to talk (about the injury)," Bird stated last week. He was being interviewed after his 21 point-12 assist-12 rebound game in the 127-120 win over the Pacers in the playoff opener. "The injury is there, it isn't going to go away. Next question."

For one, who would have anticipated Bird's early playoff performances? The injury (and it has superseded the Achilles tendon surgery in 1988 because, first of all, it's present and again the diagnosis is uncertain. Secondly, Bird's ability to live freely without chronic pain even void of basketball is in question) is being labeled spinal stenosis, or a closure of small joints at the bottom of his spine. Because the joints have deteriorated there, nerve endings aren't allowed enough room to spread out evenly in the back area, causing severe pain when it accepts the jarring activity of NBA basketball. Then, a bulging disc has developed because of the deterioration of the joints. The small closure is an inherited condition. Bird has spent most of his practice time either receiving physical therapy from therapist Dan Dyrac or has shot lightly on the side.

Motionless until game time, for all intents and purposes, Bird has exploded on the floor, sparking the team down the stretch of Game One, for example, starring in a 10-0 burst with four points, three assists and a blocked shot. His persistence to the ball



Bird: "The best part of this season is we're having fun and winning."

both off the boards and diving to the floor is still unfathomable. Last week in a turning point, he coaxed the team into a spectacular road effort, outdefending the explosive Pacers in Indiana, 112-105. An invariable legend in his home state, Bird had argued publicly with Boston's anti-hero, the ambitious Chuck Person. "I'll bust Chuck," Bird said in the Indiana newspapers. "He isn't a problem." The fans harassed Bird for his comments, and almost forgot the playoffs were on the line. When they (and the young Pacers had awoken), Boston had gotten the jump, 60-45 at halftime en route to a win that held the Pacers fifteen points below their scoring average.

This athletic dynamism provokes the best from Larry, and though some such as his former coach and mentor Bill Fitch have suggested he'd be an outstanding young coach, presently it is still playing basketball that provides Bird identity. "People don't think I can walk away from this," Bird told Bob Ryan when the two collaborated on Bird's autobiography, Drive. "They're wrong, I won't miss it as much as they think."

Before the opener of the Pacers' series, reality clashed with dream material, living color. Speculation had been rampant that

Bird might possibly be out of action for Game One. A half hour before the team was to meet for final pregame instructions in the C's locker room, Bird walked into the center of the room, an antithesis of his normal persona. Larry Bird before games: either joking with friends, or quiet, focusing, preparing himself silently behind the perceivable veils of his mind. Yet before Game One this season, Bird's uncertainty of what was to come, apropos the pain his back could take, was all too readily apparent. In a subtle but highly dramatic moment, Chris Ford eyed him carefully, respectfully. His friend, Michael Smith, patted him on the rump — these both specific and meaningful gestures of appreciation. If Willis Reed won everlasting gratitude from the 1970 New York champions for limping out on the court to inspire the Knicks to victory over the Lakers and Jerry West, Bird's appearance was every bit as important to Boston. Willis played and scored four points in thirteen minutes. Bird: a triple double, as yet another second season and its complexities had begun.

"You've got to admire him," Ford told MacMullan. "The easiest thing for Larry Bird to do is say, 'Forget it, I can't play.' But he plays through the pain, just like Kevin (McHale) and Robert (Parish) have always

done. I can't let the future of the team worry me at all though. Larry will give as much as he can for as long as he can. When he can't do that anymore, he will retire. But if Larry can find a way to keep playing, I think he will. That's the bottom line."

This line matters too, of course, it always has to the great Bird. Jan Volk and Bird (and Bob Woolf) butted heads in negotiations three years ago, but in the end, Volk negotiated the complexities of salary cap restrictions to establish a \$7 million total salary for next season (\$2.2 base with a \$4.87 million bonus). The signing bonus would belong to Bird whether he played or not. The remainder represents the fulfillment of the contract, a significant sum.

But as Vecsey correctly pointed out in his April 26th column in USA Today, Bird wouldn't be able to play if he were below self-acceptable standards. It isn't within him; it was particularly disappointing when the extended rest failed to produce enough of a cure this season. Now more than ever, he relies on the sprints of Reggie Lewis, Kevin Gamble, Dee Brown and Brian Shaw in the open court. If Cedric Maxwell was the ideal low post and defensive counterpart for Bird in the early Eighties, these young players now possess the complementary skills necessary for Bird to star again. Bird only needs to traverse a quarter of the court and then unleash a great long pass for a transition score. In a sense, this has enabled him to prolong his season but the injury to his back has made even this very hard. Again, with the high standards he applies to his game, he isn't able to conceive of lesser players able to outplay him; even for one as vigilant with money as Bird, the millions wouldn't be worth that.

Little wonder men like Ford prefer to concentrate on the battles now. Earlier this season, not only was Bird playing well, person he was perhaps the most happy and content he'd ever been with himself as a man. Happily married, his game again soaring (Bird's approximate 20 ppg scoring average was only a subtle indication of how powerful an influence he once again was: Peter May of the Globe argues convincingly he should be MVP), Bird was gearing up again for the joy of winning another NBA title. "There's nothing else to play for," he said at the time. "The best part of this season is we're having fun and winning." Now, in the classic midwestern sense, battling pain, enduring traction at times between games, in the classic sense, Bird has now been forced to make do. His friend from Indiana, Jerry Brown, stated it succinctly: "He wants to be out there." Bird won't discuss the injury. He told Vecsey he would have surgery. For Bird, the game has always been the thing, as he says, "my job, something I love to do." For now, therapy, riding the stationary bike and light shooting have constituted preparation. Being "day-to-day" and questionable for games is yet another part of this job, and only seeing how important he is to winning has kept him going.



A War Of Wills

Bird vs. Person Added Drama To An Epic Series

By Jim Bianchine

The battle began to rage from the beginning in Game 1 in the first-round series between Boston's Larry Bird and Indiana's Chuck Person.

From the outset, the war between the teams wore on throughout the bitterly fought series. The Bird vs. Person duel added drama to what would become an epic series and became a war of wills, pride, ability and of course words.

Bird's dramatic stand despite his bad back and late heroics allowed the Celtics to pull out Game 1 in the final five minutes. Despite his ailing back that has required so much medical attention and time off (he missed 22 games), he went out and produced a triple-double to lead the Celtics win when the jawing, gesturing and taunting between them all started.

Although it is certainly nothing new between the two that are respectful, but seemingly bitter rivals, the playoffs seems to magnify the situation between the decorated old veteran and the young lion looking for respect.

Early in the fourth period of the opening game, Bird drove the baseline and made the shot despite being clobbered by Person. Bird gathered the ball, palmed it and stuck it in Person's face and laughed at him before the free throw. They were nose-to-nose when Kevin McHale stepped in and shoved Person, setting the tone for the series that would turn uglier by the game.

With the Celtics trying to hold onto their lead in the closing minutes, the Pacers were trying to stage a final rally. Person drove to the basket and Bird ripped the ball out of his hands and barked out a few choice insults as the Celtics headed toward the opposite end of the parquet with the victory now in hand.

Person praised his rival after the first game, but it was easy to tell revenge was on his mind. Following Game 1 he said "I love to go up against the best. If I don't play up to their caliber, I get embarrassed."

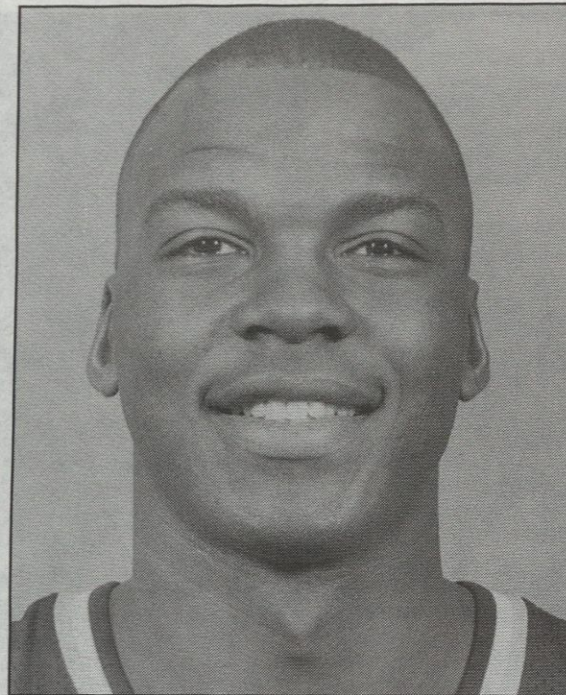
But his ever-changing attitude was evident. Following words of praise, he turned and said with disdain, "If anyone takes enough shots, some are going to go in," referring to Bird's performance.

Person had his chance to gain a measure of revenge and at the same time, respect, in Game 2. He came out sizzling and struck for 39 points to lead the Pacers to a 130-118 win to even the series.

The wise old man with the bad back congratulated his rival when they left the floor. "Larry said to me 'great game. One of the best I've ever seen.' That's something I'll always remember, coming from one of the greatest players of all time. That'll stay with me for a long time," said Person.

Actually it stayed with him until he got back to the locker room where he started shooting off his mouth. Then the war of words really heated up, the fires stoked mainly by Person, whose nickname is Rifleman, though machine-gun mouth seemed more fitting to this brash young player.

"I feel I can drive on Bird or shoot over him. I know I can take him off the dribble.



Person: "I just want to prove that I belong in there with the higher caliber players in this league."

I know I can take Larry or Kevin (McHale) from outside or the other guys (Reggie Lewis, Derek Smith or Kevin Gamble) inside. Whoever they throw at me, I'm not going to back down," said Person who went at every player the Celtics sent in his face. The more they pushed him away from the basket, the more lethal he became from outside. When they double-teamed him, it generally led to an easy hoop for a teammate.

"I just want to prove that I belong in there with the higher caliber players in this league. This is the best time to take my game to another level. I'm not going to let all this tradition, the leprechaun stuff or anything else back us down," said Person, who hit 16-of-24 shots including an NBA playoff record 7-of-10 from three-point range.

"I'm on a mission," said Person in an Ali-like tirade following Game 2.

Person didn't mind being added to the list of bad guys in Boston. "When I was hitting shots, I was making gestures to the crowd. I think the Celtics were paying too much attention to that," he said.

"The people don't like it when I do my antics, but I feed off their reactions. Sometimes if the fans don't yell at me, it gets me worried," he said.

Friday night (Game 1) I was disappointed with my game. Larry Bird was great in the end. But, today was my day in the sun. I guess I got the last laugh here," he said.

Obviously disturbed by being painted the evil scoundrel, Person said, "I don't give a (blank) what you guys say. I'm always going to be the bad guy. Regardless of what I do, it is going to be my fault. I have wide shoulders and I love the competition. You guys (press) give me energy. I'm not going to worry about what you say. The parquet floor, all the (blank) banners and the leprechauns tried to stop me, but they couldn't," he said.

Larry Bird had little to say as the two became gladiators again in Indianapolis in

Game 3 in the best-of-five first round series. He simply praised Person's Herculean effort of the previous game. Rather than comment on Person, the Indiana native simply said, "I've been looking forward to playing the Pacers in the playoffs for 12 years now. Now I can go out there and play in the playoffs against them at home."

McHale noted Person started the playoff feud between the two on Friday night. Following Game 1 he said, "Most of what was going on out there was Person induced. Chuck was talking so much trash out there. Larry was just going back at him."

Meanwhile Person was still going strong in the other locker room.

"I was the best player in the world for one day in my eyes," said Person, seemingly forgetting there was still a lot of basketball to be played in the series.

Bird, however, seemed to be keeping his thoughts on the subject well within and there was an air of danger in his silence and seriousness written on his face.

The young, brash Person never sensed it could have been a warning.

The problems between the two titans of the game started somehow, a long time ago. Run-ins were common when they got together. It was simply rekindled when they faced-off for the first time ever in the playoffs.

Even though they didn't always guard the other, in Indiana the faithful felt Person was taking on their favorite son and Chuck had to feel like the outsider, even at home.

A healthier Bird earlier in the regular season burned the Pacers in a game in Hartford, for seven three-pointers in a 25-point Celtics win and jawing, gesturing and finger-pointing was seen in that encounter. Following the game in Connecticut, Bird told the Indiana beat writers that he wanted to invite Chuck to the Boston Garden to show him all the banners.

When it came time to meet in the NBA playoffs, it provided a chance for the Pacers, maybe for the first time in their history, to make a name for themselves. For Bird and the Celtics, it was a matter of preserving pride. For the Indiana native, he had his own pride to preserve too.

Throughout the next two games the young lion continued to taunt the decorated, but wounded veteran. Deep inside the two may have had a healthy respect for the other, but they remained bitter rivals and as a result the teams got caught up in it as well. Pushing, shoving and tempers flaring became part of the heated series.

It became clear Person wanted a small portion of the huge respect that Bird has earned over his many years of stardom around the league.

Indiana coach Bob Hill stood in front of the media mob outside the Celtics locker room following Game 2 and said, "Chuck Person is really a wonderful guy. He's just caught up in everything and is very com-

petitive. He's got as much respect for Larry Bird as anybody. Both want to win. It should be interesting."

It certainly was. It became clear it was as much Bird against Person as it was the Celtics against Indiana.

Before he met the media for post-game comments after the Pacers triumph in the Boston Garden, teammate Reggie Miller said, "don't (bleep) them off. Be a gracious winner."

Person paid little attention to Miller and fired volley after volley at the injured Bird, almost begging for a confrontation while seeking attention like a forgotten child as his irreverence continued. He reveled in being the bad guy. "I'm going to put my arm in traction," he said, mocking Bird who was forced to put himself in traction in order to be able to play another game in Indiana.

The wily Bird chose to praise Person's effort and prepare himself for yet another encounter. Bird took the taunting and sneering at Celtics tradition in stride, but it had to stoke his fire. He was not going to show Person ruffled feathers, no matter how much it may be getting to him inside. He faced enough frustration being limited physically.

Buoyed by only their second ever playoff win and first ever on the road, the Pacers and Person were pumped up and believed they could beat the favored Celtics as the series took flight and landed back in Indianapolis.

The skirmish between the living legend and the wannabe continued.

Person's antics continued too. He would bump Bird at every chance. Fingers were pointed toward noses, and after great shots, they would shoot one finger into the air in a triumphant gesture, back and forth.

It was clear Person was trying to match Bird's manhood as much as his basketball ability.

Person was quiet on the court in Game 3, held to just eight shots and six points and the Celtics prevailed to take a 2-1 series lead. Person still sneered at the Celtics tradition.

He was on fire in the final stages of the Pacers' fourth quarter comeback in Game 4 to even the series and again spoke of how the Celtics feared him, backing off to allow him to take his patented jumper because they were worried about his drive. He led his team to victory with 30 points and said, "Bird will see me in his dreams tonight."

Despite Bird's limitations, facing possible off-season surgery and a night in New England Baptist after the opening game, Person continued his boastful barrage as the series headed back to Boston for the fifth and deciding game.

Now it was time to find out once and for all who would get the last laugh.

The youngbloods from Indiana came into the Boston Garden showing nothing but disrespect and a true belief in their own abilities.

Good vs. bad became ugly. Each had his chance to prove what he was made of, though Person seemed to be the only one with something to really prove.

Continued on page 23...

CELTICS PRIDE

Man To Man

Frank Layden Feels The Celts Are Unique

By Andy Murphy

Frank Layden earned his fame as the coach and general manager of the Utah Jazz, but now that he's retired from those posts, assuming the position of President of the Jazz, he's making news again.

With a coaching vacancy in Miami, Layden has voiced an interest in the job — and when he speaks, people listen. After all, he took a perennial loser in Utah and turned the team into a championship contender. Miami would seem to offer the same challenge, and it is an organization without a strong front office, so he could be afforded the type of control he wants if he were to return to coaching.

For the time being, though, Frank Layden is spending most of his time as a radio broadcaster for the NBA, and he has a lot of views on the playoffs.

So, without any further adieu, here's Frank Layden.

CELTICS PRIDE: Going into the playoffs, everyone was saying how wide open it was going to be. Then we see both of last year's finalists extended to five games in the first round. Are the playoffs anyone's game at this point?

FRANK LAYDEN: I think they certainly are. But I also think we can't let up on the idea that Portland is still the favorite and the front runner.

Portland spent an awful lot of energy by winning 16 of its last 17 games, and then it came into the playoffs against a team that was kind of dormant, but caught fire. I think that series will make the Trail Blazers better, and having gotten by the Sonics they're going to go on to do what

everyone expects them to do.

CP: What about the rest of the West?

FL: You can throw them all into a bag. Everyone can knock off everyone else. Golden State is terrific, the Lakers took care of the pretenders in fine fashion and the Jazz haven't had a streak all year, but now it looks like they're on one.

CP: Houston was everyone's dark horse coming into the playoffs, but then the Lakers dispatched the Rockets in three games. Was that simply an example of how the regular season differs from the playoffs?

FL: Without a doubt. Houston got hot during the regular season when everyone else was laying back. I think Don Chaney did a great job at winning when the big guy wasn't there, and they had a tremendous run at a good time of the season. The thing with the NBA is, it's always a roller coaster, and Houston had no momentum coming into the playoffs, and then they drew a very good team in the first round of the playoffs.

CP: Golden State would appear to have inherited the sleeper role, after eliminating San Antonio. It would seem the Warriors are a team that you'd hate to face in the playoffs right now.

FL: With the Warriors, I ask myself this question: Why don't they do better in the regular season? The only thing I can find wrong with them is they're short.

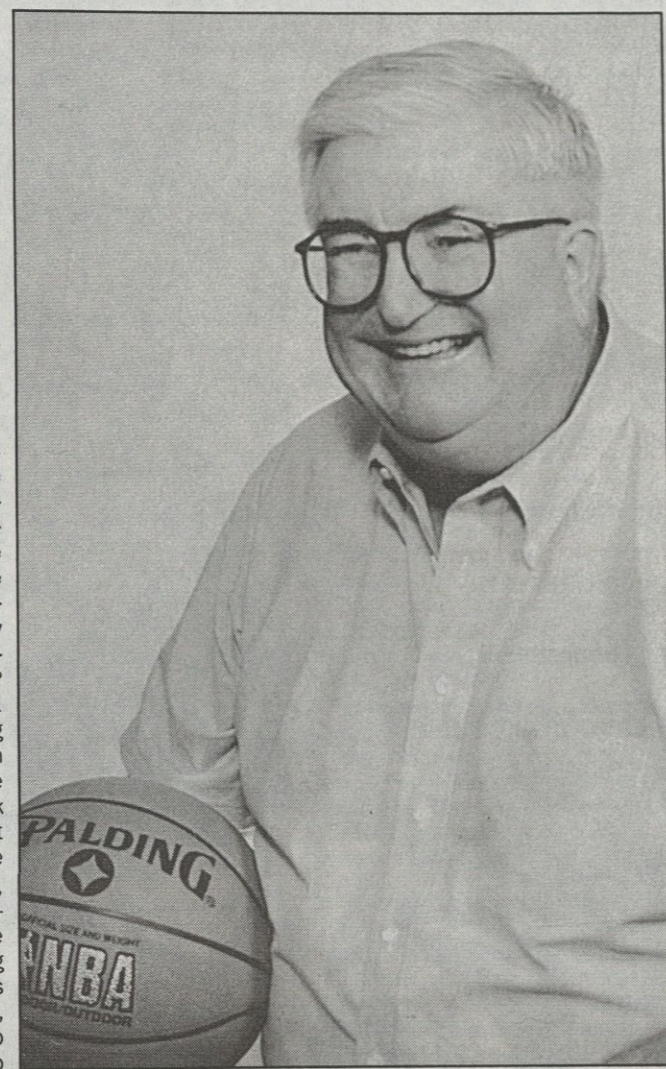
They probably feel they're a team without a legitimate center, but they have some great athletes. They shoot the ball, run the floor, they have great quickness and physical strength.

So my question is: Are they a surprise in the playoffs or a disappointment in the regular season?

CP: Coming out to the Eastern Conference, Chicago was impressive in its dominance over the Knicks in the first round. Was that a case of Chicago being that good, or the Knicks being that bad?

FL: The Bulls feel really good about themselves right now. I think the Eastern Conference is a little weaker than the West, and Chicago has made the natural progression of having some of their young people get better.

You look at their young guys — Grant, Armstrong, Perdue — all of them have gotten better because they're a year older, and now they have a head of steam. I don't



Layden: "With the Celtics, the veteran triumvirate is more important than the young triumvirate."

think anyone is really going to challenge them except for you guys.

CP: The Celtics got a big scare in the first round from Indiana, to say the least. Could that series help give them the same head of steam Chicago has?

FL: That series was a character win for Boston. And while you can say the Celtics' defense was suspect in Indiana's win in game-two at Boston, you also have to realize that guys aren't going to go against you and sink seven straight three-pointers every night. That was just one of those games.

With the Celtics, the veteran triumvirate is more important than the young triumvirate. They have to have Parish, McHale and Bird playing well if they are to go on. They don't have to be on top of their games, but they have to play well.

CP: It seems that it was crucial for Bird to turn in at least a decent performance against the Pacers to maintain his imposing presence as a living legend in future series. Do you agree?

FL: Bird gives the Celtics instant credibility, both with the officials and the opposition. He's the type of guy where if the game is on the line, you just lay him on the floor and let everyone jump on his back. It was important for him to perform well because now, just his presence will have an effect on the other team.

CP: There was a thought that Detroit would be able to turn it on and make another run in the playoffs. After all the problems the Pistons had with Atlanta, do you think that's possible?

FL: Vince Lombardi said, "Winning is not a sometime thing." You can't just turn it on and off anytime you want. You can't just float through the season and then say, "Okay. Now we're going to turn it on for the playoffs."

There have been some good teams in the past that would finish second in the regular season and then come on in the playoffs — the old Knicks were famous for that, saving themselves for the playoffs. But you can't have the type of season Detroit had and expect them to come into the playoffs and say, "Okay. Now we're going to do it."

CP: Looking at Chicago, if you're the opposing coach, what's your game plan for a seven game series?

FL: This may sound crazy, but in a seven game series you have to wear out Jordan. That's how Detroit beat them.

Michael has the ball all the time, and Detroit simply beat him up. He's such a competitor that when you do that, he starts working even harder to get the ball, and when that happens he tries to do everything himself.

If you can get Chicago into a situation where Jordan is handling the ball more and more, then they're in trouble. And if you keep knocking him down, then seven games can be awfully tough on a guy.

CP: Of course, one of the big concerns for the Celtics is being able to handle a seven game series with so many veterans playing key roles. Will that be a major drawback as we advance into the longer series?

FL: The Celtics are very unique in that they have two fierce competitors in Bird and McHale. Those two guys love to play basketball and they're very competitive, so it's hard to see them dying out in a seven game series.

It was underplayed, but I thought it was a very dramatic moment for the Celtics on the first Sunday game of the Indiana series when Larry threw his body on the floor. My God! You're talking about maybe the greatest player who ever lived and he has a bad back and he's throwing himself on the ground. I don't think the broadcasters made enough of an issue about that, but it was unbelievable, and it tells you something about the competitiveness of Larry Bird.

CP: As a coach, how do you keep your team sharp in these long seven game series?

FL: We can go into how there are too many games in the playoffs, but the bottom line is we lose some of the beauty of our game and some of the finesse at a time when it should be at its best. We're looking at very tired, worn out athletes; tired, worn out coaches; tired, worn out referees. Everyone is tired and worn out.

How do you keep your team going? Winning helps. I remember a couple of years ago I was playing Stockton and Malone 48 minutes a game, but they were able to keep their energy levels up because we were winning. To this day I don't know how they did it.



Even with a disease that has no cure, these kids remain undefeated.

Let's settle the score against Cystic Fibrosis, the nation's number one genetic killer of children and young adults.

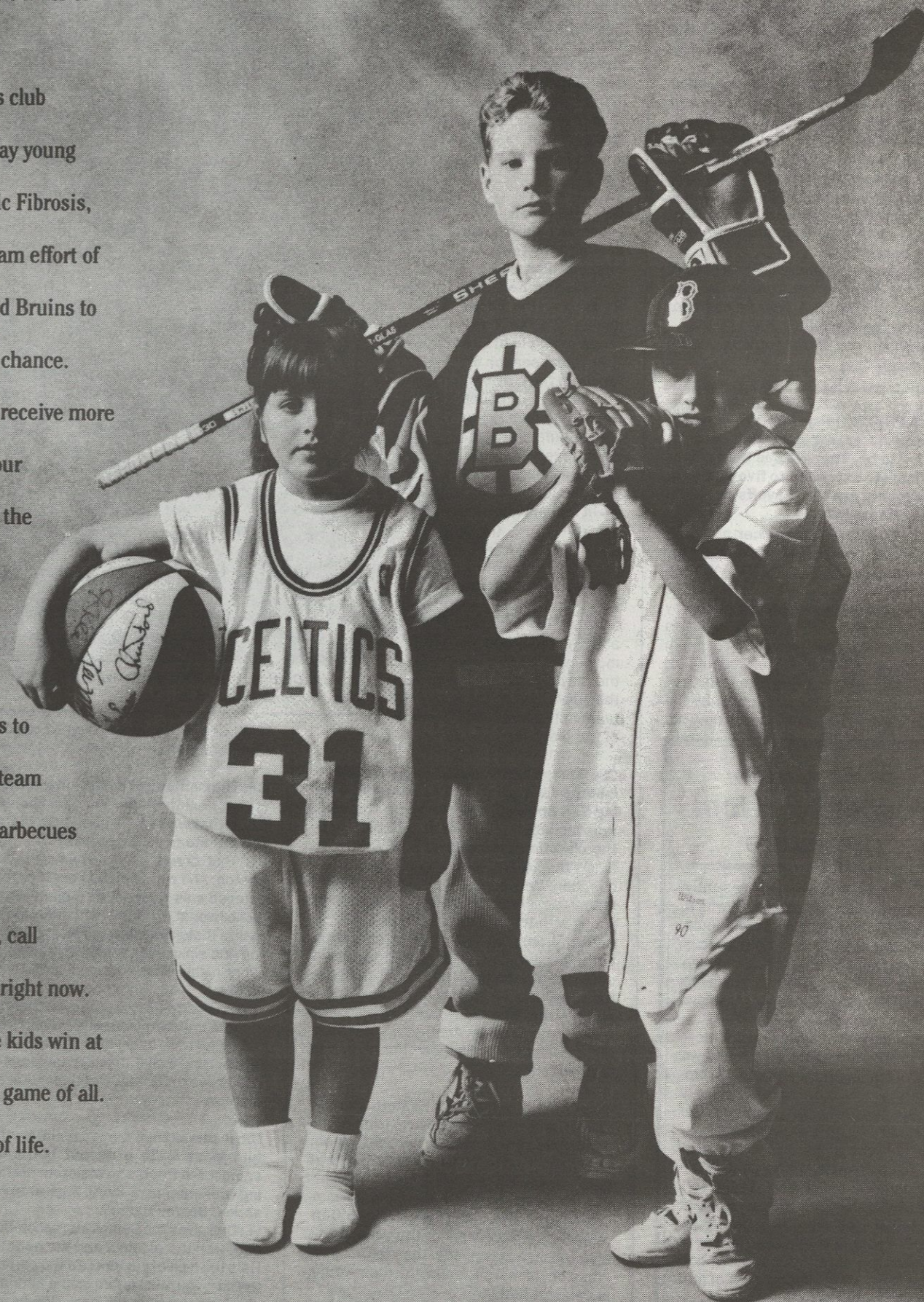
By joining 65 Roses, a sports club affectionately named for the way young children often pronounce Cystic Fibrosis, you'll be joining a dedicated team effort of the Boston Celtics, Red Sox and Bruins to help give these kids a sporting chance.

As a full club member, you'll receive more than our thanks. You'll enjoy four tickets to each of five games to the sport of your choice. You'll be invited to pre-game dinners where you'll meet the players. And receive personal invitations to all kinds of special events, like team practice, Draft Day, auctions, barbecues and much more.

For membership information, call 1-800-966-0444, right now.

And help these kids win at the toughest game of all.

The game of life.



65 Roses Sports Club • Massachusetts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation 220 North Main Street, Suite 104, Natick, MA 01760
Design: Irma S. Mann, Strategic Marketing, Inc.; Photo: Hornick/Rivlin Studios; Typesetting: Wrightson Typographers; Film: CGI

CELTICS PRIDE



By Red Auerbach

Red On Roundball

Havlicek and Bird

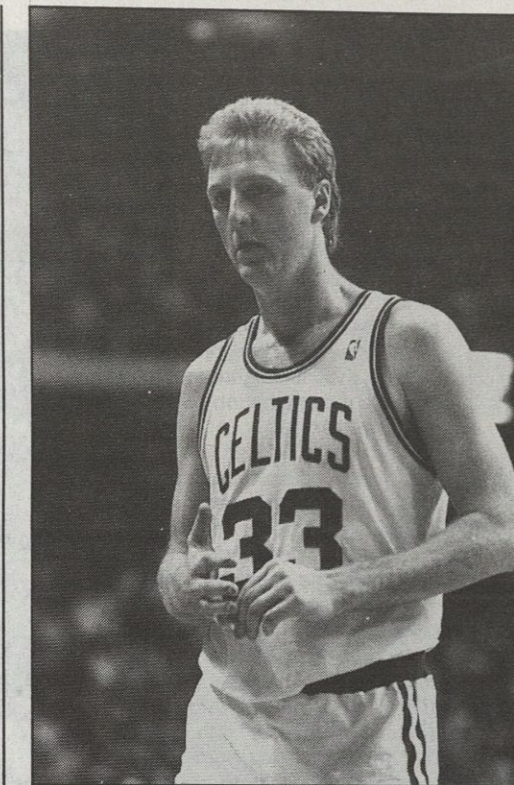
I was asked a few years ago, by this magazine, to name what I most liked about NBA basketball in the mid-1980's. I responded this way. For one thing, I obviously like the game more when we're playing well. I believe this is a given. But what you like about the game is watching the great players play. I truly enjoy watching players like Magic Johnson, Isiah Thomas, Michael Jordan and especially our Larry Bird play the game of basketball.

These players combine all the qualities that make athletics so special: talent, intelligence, cunning, spirit. Who would have ever anticipated the financial explosion which erupted in sport such as professional baseball in the past ten years, when million dollar salaries have become almost standard? The NBA has protected its game... by instituting a very workable system: the salary cap. We have a way of balancing, in good faith, monies teams make and direct back to the players. No system is ever perfect, but we've made great strides. I have been working on a book about this area, which will be out in the next several months.

If there are some select few who earn the expanding salary, it certainly includes Larry Bird.

Bird has been playing with severe back pain for quite some time now. I see him now — in practice, at games, and we look at each other. I know how much pain he's having, and he knows that I know. But I respect the fact that he doesn't want to talk about it.

He's potentially looking at surgery and obviously, it's up to him. It's one of those decisions that only a man such as Larry Bird can make for himself. We support him in every way. Because how do you begin to measure the importance and the uniqueness of how Larry's been playing, and



How do you measure the importance and the uniqueness of how Larry's been playing, and leading now?

leading, now? After Game Four of the Indiana series, I thought what Larry did was very important. Never mind the pain he's going through (we've said enough about it and I think that's how he wants it handled). But what Bird did was tell the press publicly how well the team was playing. That even in defeat, and it was a very emotional defeat, we played well enough to win. After the game had immediately ended, what he did was important: He sought out every player leaving the floor and shook their hands.

Then, Game Five! Bird came back from

yet another injury, going down with a hard blow to the head, and played one of the greatest games. All over the floor, leading players down court with spectacular long passes, hitting his favorite shots. With a near concussion. We needed every one of those points.

It takes me back to John Havlicek, in many ways. People sometimes look at our team's tradition and debunk it. But we have a special continuity here, and we have a reference point for practically everything (but we don't live in the past). But I think you do have a parallel between Bird and Havlicek. In 1976, Havlicek, still a great player, suffered a severe foot injury which required him to soak his foot in ice between games around the clock. Yet, even with the injury, he was able to block the pain out and continue driving us to what turned out to be his last championship. People called us too old then, but we found a way to do it.

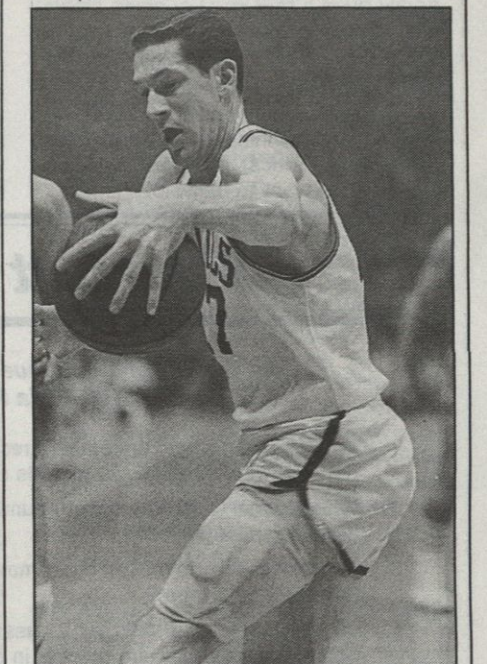
There are obvious points and subtle points. First, the productivity was unthinkable because in the 1976 Game Five classic against Phoenix, Havlicek played fifty-eight minutes with torn ligaments in his foot. He converted two crucial shots and had 8-19 FGs, 6-7 FTs, 5 reb, 8 asts and 22 points. But most significantly,

you need to look at what he was displaying. For one thing, he was inspiring his teammates to keep pushing because he (Havlicek) was driving himself on that foot. And secondly, he was leading the ballclub. This is telling. This is a literal recreation of what Larry's been doing for us now, in the 1990's.

I wrote here on several occasions I had no idea what a great leader he was when we drafted him, and now he's reaching another dimension. Because more than ever, Larry needs the younger guys, and he knows it. This is a very perplexing matter,

because it's difficult for Larry to perform the way he has because he knows the difference between what he's doing and what he could be doing, if healthy. That's why it's critical that a Brian Shaw or a Reggie Lewis or Kevin Gamble can reach a loose ball, come up with a deflection or force guys out higher off of picks. It makes Larry's playmaking skills at the forward spot that much more effective.

I think it's similar to the way John was playing, late in his own championship era. He was the acknowledged star, but he learned in a classic veteran way, that he couldn't make every play he once could, so it was unwise to force it. This is what Larry's doing. People are counting us out and we are up against it because of injury. But we have a great team here this year and we're still alive. You keep playing hard to win, because you don't know what will happen. I predicted earlier that if we were healthy, we were as good as anyone. Well, we're not (healthy). But as these examples illustrate, often in the playoffs, it's difficult to determine why games — and playoff series — are won. Breaks, injury, talent and perseverance all enter into it.



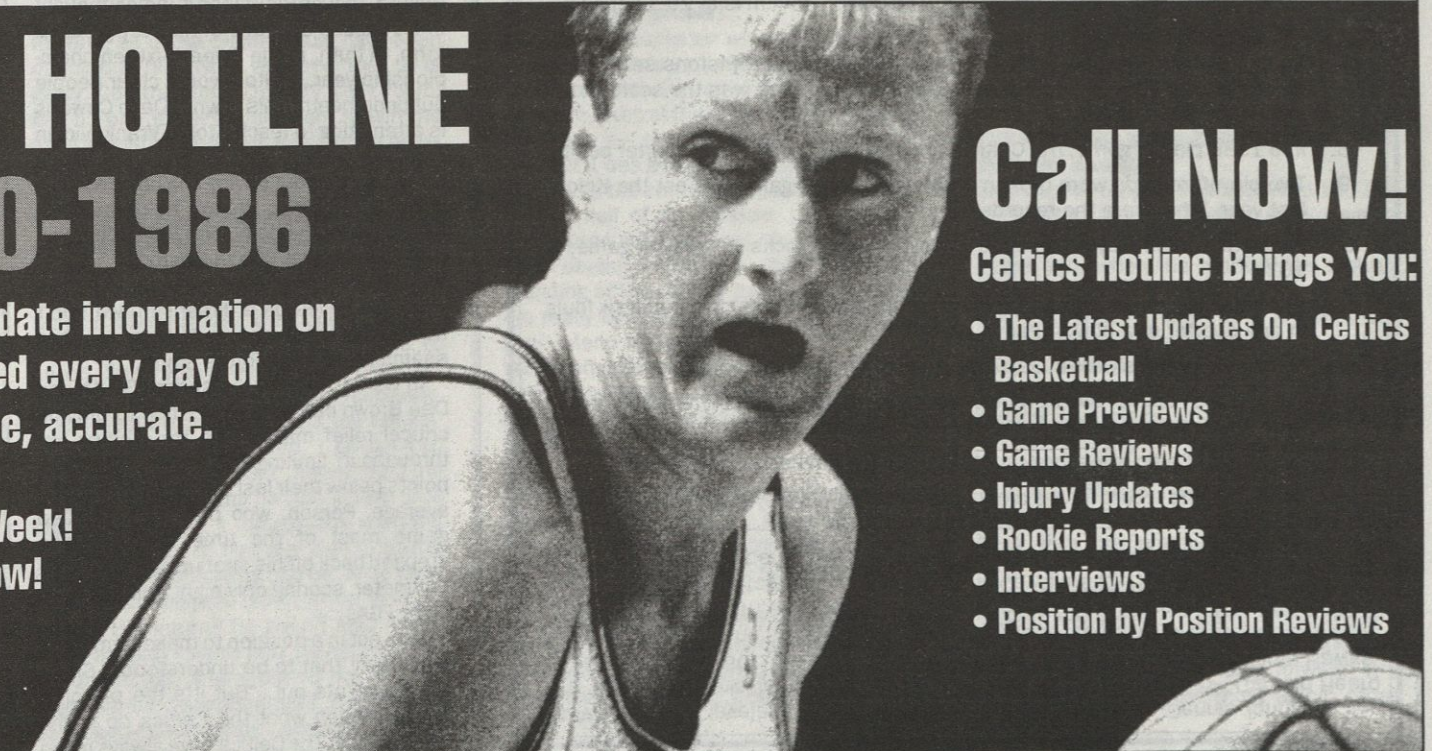
Havlicek, like Bird, overcame an injury in the playoffs to help lead the Celts.

CELTICS HOTLINE 1-900-860-1986

The most complete up to date information on Celtics Basketball, updated every day of the season. Quick, concise, accurate.

24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week!
When You Need To Know Now!

Current Call Charges:
\$2.00 For the first minute
\$1.00 For each succeeding minute



Call Now!

Celtics Hotline Brings You:

- The Latest Updates On Celtics Basketball
- Game Previews
- Game Reviews
- Injury Updates
- Rookie Reports
- Interviews
- Position by Position Reviews



May 24, 1991

Derek Is Eager To Contribute

Smith's Return Gives Celts Another Option

By Bob Schron

In a flurry of final minute meetings and spontaneous choices, the Celtics and their veteran forward Derek Smith reached yet another consensus. Thought to be finished until next season, Smith (his common name belies his uniqueness — aggressive, intelligent, extroverted) did a complete one hundred eighty degree turn and persuaded Chris Ford he would play all out on his worn down knee this playoff season.

Before the team's desultory final regular season game against the Atlanta Hawks, Boston activated Smith in time for the naming of the playoff rosters.

"I may not be fancy, and I may not be the player I was before I blew out my knee," Smith said then. "But I'm here and willing. I want to go out there and contribute to the Boston Celtics winning the NBA title. These people (the Celtics) put their hope and trust in me. I want to deliver."

In the opening stages of the playoffs against the Indiana Pacers, Smith, by his presence had an impact. In Game One, with the Pacers apparently prepared to get the jump on the Celtics, Smith entered the game in the third quarter and reversed the momentum of the contest. He had four points in only four minutes, but most importantly, he forced Chuck Person off balance when before Person had been opening up the floor, creating easy shots for Indiana. In Game Two, though Smith appeared effective in the same role, Ford chose to play him but three minutes and Person instead set a record: seven three-pointers, 16-25 FGs, 39 points, and an Indiana 130-118 win.

"It's just one game," commented Smith. "I want to be out there and I just hope and pray I have the chance. I know I'm able to do things to distract Person."

For the first time in his coaching career, Ford was under fire after Game Two. One of the reasons he was criticized both on the now legendary talk shows and in the press was his failure to utilize Smith's aggres-

siveness on Person. "It was a coaching decision," Ford said at practice before Game Three in Indiana. "There are certain things Derek can and he can't do. I'll probably use him more, though," Ford acknowledged.

The complexity of Derek Smith: forced to be a role player before his time because of severe knee injuries in the mid-eighties, Smith is a combination of stoic personality and bottled up fire. Though his injury-enforced limitations have edged him to the end of the bench, "I never think of myself as a secondary performer," he counters.

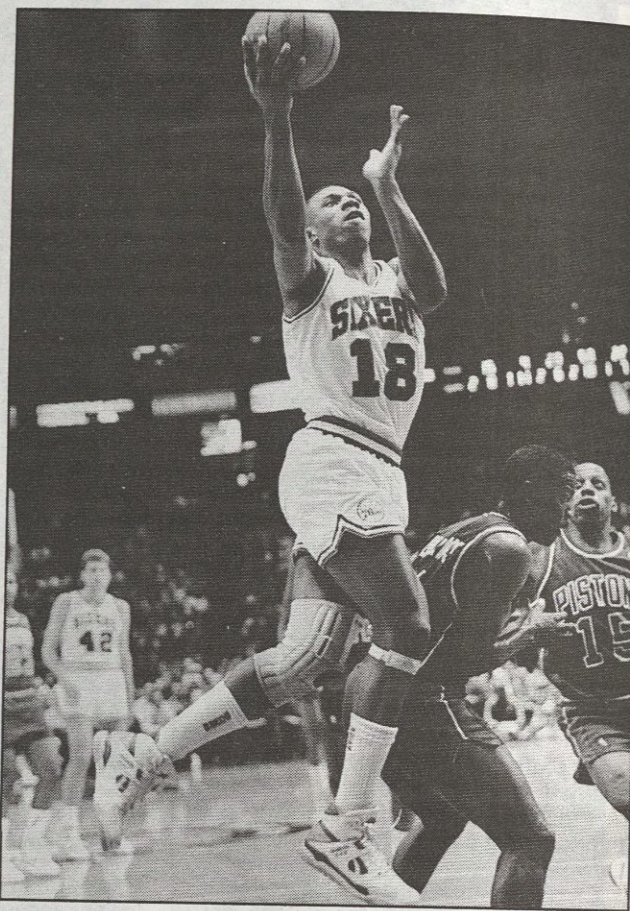
"There's a certain mental attitude you have to have, or at least I have to have in my role. For one thing, I'm out there to help the team in any way I can. That means putting numbers into every column — meaning, getting some points, some assists, some rebounds. And physically, I never back down. If somebody like a Chuck Person is going to try and star, I'm going to do everything in my power to prevent this from happening."

This of course is literally music to Chris Ford's ears. Ford is from a previous era, a player during the Chicago Bulls-Detroit Pistons playoffs of the circa 1973-75 years, when men like Bob Lanier, Jerry Sloan, Eric Money, Norm Van Lier and M.L. Carr knocked men to the floor within every other referees' whistle. Since then, Ford has beckoned for an M.L. Carr-type back in Boston. Though Bill Walton is largely thought of as finesse because of his very graceful form, in truth, in the Sweet Sixteen championship year, Walton would clear people out underneath. This is what Dave Cowens is attempting to teach Stojko Vrankovic; in 1992 perhaps, again players will think three times about driving the lane, as they did in 1986 when Walton helped Robert Parish patrol the paint. Not coincidentally, this was the last title in Boston.

"This is why I like Derek's game," says Ford. "He gives us a dimension we don't have: Aggressiveness." One is able seemingly to hear Ford's smile.

In Game Three of the series, Smith and Dee Brown came off the bench to provide critical relief minutes as the Celtics led throughout, limiting the Pacers to fifteen points below their last half-season scoring average. Person, who plays a controlled game most of the time, nevertheless stepped back off his spot up stance on the perimeter, scoring only eight points on but eight FGAs.

"I'm not in a position to make demands, I just want that to be understood," Smith quickly points out. "But it's the playoffs, and I've seen what the Celtics do in the post season. The Celtics have always made



Smith, the ex-Sixer, has been a strong contributor in the playoffs.

a stand. I think I'm that type of player, too." In seven minutes in Game Three, Smith scored an important backdoor basket, caving neatly around the Rik Smits block attempt. He finished with 7 points, 2 rebounds, 3-4 FGs.

"I can still shoot the ball, in terms of the release, but where I'm hurt, is in my elevation. I can't jump the way I once did." Smith of course was one of the most dynamic scoring guards in the league in the 1984-85 period, averaging over 25 ppg with the Clippers.

After being signed as a free agent and blowing out his knee, he became both understandably tentative about the knee, as well as experienced about the pressures applied in some circumstances to injured players.

"I put all of the bitterness aside right now," Smith says about the latter with the Kings. "It's playoff time, and I'm thinking that the Boston Celtics will have problems if we don't play aggressively. The knee is bothersome. It always will be. But that won't stop me from getting done what I need to get done. Guys who want to score big numbers when I'm out there will have to go through me."

The Celtics headed toward a possible showdown with the Pistons with a player like Smith firmly in mind. "I think Derek's very happy right now," commented Ford last week. "He's worked hard, very hard, to get back here. He rehabilitated the knee, went through a setback and was done. But he pulled himself back up, through will. He's playing basketball again and in the later rounds of the playoffs, he's another option for us and a very welcome one."

By Bob Schron

Brought onto the NBA beat by The Boston Globe three seasons ago, Jackie MacMullan has become arguably the best reporter on the beat. It was MacMullan who ardently pursued the Dave Gavitt hiring. It was MacMullan who was among the frontrunners in describing the Celtics' dissatisfaction with Jim Rodgers. Finally, with Peter Vecsey of NBC, she brought the news of Larry Bird's impending surgery to light. On the eve of the Celtics' showdown with the defending champion Detroit Pistons in the second round of the playoffs, MacMullan was interviewed on the state of both the Celtics and the league.

CELTICS PRIDE: In this round, the Celtics will be playing the defending champions of the league, the Pistons. Detroit is said to be thinking of major changes. How do you assess the Celtics' chances against this team? How do you assess Boston's foe?

JACKIE MACMULLAN: Jack McClosky (DT's GM) saw what happened to the Celtics a few seasons ago and thought Boston made an error. That is, they didn't make change soon enough. Change is inevitable in this league. It's interesting these teams meet now. Boston's rebuilding program had special elements to it because of the Celtics' having Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Larry Bird, three Hall of Famers who they've been riding into the sunset. Detroit is still formidable, but I think it will be easier to make changes there. Because with the exception of Isiah Thomas and Bill Laimbeer, they'd be moving players (potentially) who haven't been there for a long time. John Salley is a free agent. James Edwards is an aging center who's been with the team for three years. Mark Aguirre is tough for his teammates to deal with, but he has a five year contract. If I'm Detroit, though, I sure want to hold on to Dennis Rodman and Joe Dumars. The Celtics can beat Detroit, but injuries make it difficult to judge.

CP: How do you see the Celtics' chances in the playoffs?

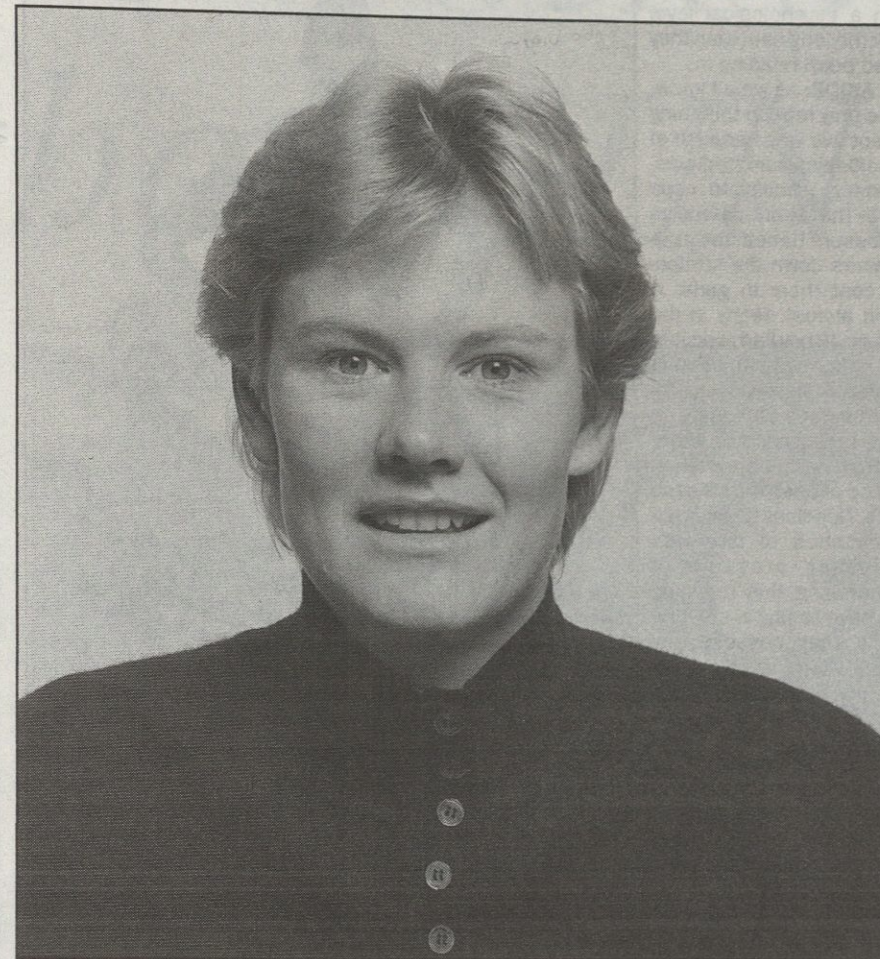
JM: Injuries cloud the forecast. They made a smart move resting players for the playoffs. But how long will Bird's health hold up? How long can he keep going? No way of telling.

CP: How do you evaluate Chris Ford's coaching?

JM: The day the team fired Jimmy Rodgers, I wrote that the Celtics would be making a major mistake if they didn't hire Chris Ford. He's fulfilled all expectations, arguably a good choice for Coach of the Year. I wasn't surprised because I've watched him over three years, the way he understood the game, on buses, his demeanor. What made Chris Ford successful were two factors. First, he persuaded Larry Bird to become part of the team again, because Bird was coming off a season where he was alienated from the team. Secondly, he

Innerview

The Globe's Jackie MacMullan Knows The Boston Celtics



MacMullan: "Certain people are winners, and Gavitt is a winner."

laid down the law with the veterans. Essentially, he told them that although he had played with them and they were better than he was, he was still going to coach them, that he would yell at them if necessary.

CP: Has he held up well at this stage, when the pressure's increased?

JM: The pressure was really on him during the first round. If the team had lost to Indiana, all of the blame would have been directed at him. Now, whatever they do is gravy. Can they beat Detroit? They could. But no one expects this team to win the championship. And no one expects it of the coach.

CP: With a year's retrospective, how do you assess the decision to release Rodgers?

JM: Jimmy was caught in a web of circumstance, some of his own doing. But he certainly never had this Celtic team to coach. Shaw was gone to Italy. He wanted to draft B.J. Armstrong or Tim Hardaway, which would have addressed the Celtics' backcourt quickness need. I go back to what Red Auerbach said: Jimmy liked the players too much and he had a hard time disciplining them. I thought the veterans took advantage of him and that in spots, his communication was bad because night to night the players didn't know what to expect. His future? He hasn't said much, and I can't say I blame him. He had reached his dream job, and it turned out to be a monumental disappointment. He wants to be a head coach again, I suspect. But the

route back to it now has changed; coaches have to return to the mainstream in different lines of work — assistant coaches or broadcasting. It's hard to step right back in at your choosing. Unless you're Pat Riley.

CP: How do you assess the job Dave Gavitt's done? You've watched him for ten years (formerly MacMullan covered the collegiate games).

JM: Certain people are winners, and Gavitt is a winner. He's very clever and he has a way about him that people want to learn from him, even at this level. He's a forceful presence — the team needed things, whether it was better weight equipment all the way to the charter the team had in the second half of the season. I don't think we've seen at all the best he can do. We'll begin seeing it draft day, when his understanding of the college game and its players really becomes an asset. He doesn't over extend himself. We didn't see major NBA trades here this season because I don't think Gavitt felt comfortable making trades with personnel he didn't know well.

CP: There has been talk recently that the Boston Garden may be receiving additional funding for a new building. Will we see a new Garden by the projected 1993 (circa) time frame?

JM: A key question up here is which will we see first: the Red Sox win the World Series, or a new Boston Garden. It will be the Red Sox winning, I'm afraid. I don't think we will see a new Garden.

CP: Is Larry Bird's surgery a certainty?

JM: Yes. And he was quoted at length this week in *The National* verifying it. Will he continue playing? I think so, yes. Back surgery isn't the fearsome thing it once was. Players can come back and perform. I think it's hard for Bird to go out and not be able to do the things he once was able to do. He's 34 now... it's hard to tell whether it's the back preventing him, or age, although one can clearly see there's limitations on his mobility. Larry's still very good. I placed him on the Second Team all-NBA; some might argue with it because he did miss 22 games. However, the Celtics wouldn't have been anywhere without him this season. The key to this team's success is its running game. The key to the running game is Larry Bird's court vision. His overall shooting wasn't great this season, but his clutch shooting still is. And in defensive rebounding and passing there are few better. Still.

CP: Were you surprised no one picked Dennis Johnson up?

JM: Yes. Look at this round's opponent, the Pistons. When given a choice, who do you pick up when Isiah Thomas is out for three months: John Long or Dennis Johnson? Gerald Henderson or Dennis Johnson? I choose DJ. I think there are two considerations. First, I think DJ had a problem with signing for the minimum and signing a ten day contract. He's too secure. Secondly, they now sign their rookies to long term contracts, fearful of the young players jumping to Europe, or the market jumping. This ties up roster spots and makes it difficult for teams to sign attractive veterans like DJ.

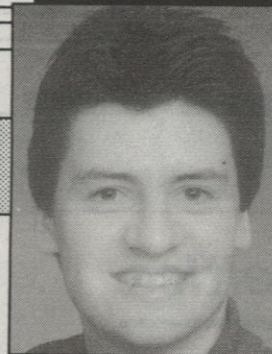
CP: Above, you declared the C's could beat Detroit. Can they go all the way?

JM: I don't see anyone taking Chicago. With all the injury problems, matching up with Michael Jordan will be more difficult than ever. As well as defending players like Armstrong and Scottie Pippen off the dribble. I think Chicago is both more confident of themselves than ever, and they're free of injury. I think it will be a Portland - Chicago final, with Portland winning.

CP: What lies in the Celtics' future? Will there be changes?

JM: I think they're committed to the Big Three (Bird, McHale, Parish). If there was a chance to trade, it should have been three years ago, when the market was higher. Parish might still be of value, and they might consider it, but I tend to doubt it. I hope they don't trade Reggie Lewis, and they have to first sign Gamble and then think of him. Their most tradeable commodity perhaps is Brian Shaw, who was disappointing in the opening round of the playoffs. I thought he had a difficult time with the Indiana halfcourt traps. It may have been his ankle. Did he have a hard time with the pressure of the (playoff) situation? I won't place that rap on him. I thought going into the playoffs he was tough, seasoned. I don't think there's much doubt that in the draft the Celtics will be looking for a rebounding forward. It's where the Celtics are most aging, most vulnerable.





By Mike Spellman

Double Dribbles

A Step Backward Was A Step Forward

A handful of local media types whose job it is to offer such analyses pronounced before the start of the playoffs that the longer their series lasted with the Pacers, the better off the Celtics would be, with the rationale behind this being that the boys in green required the jolt of a back-to-the-wall situation to regain the early season toughness and focus that's been missing since their final west coast swing.

Sounded reasonable to me, but I took that same idea in a slightly different direction, putting forth prior to the second season getting underway that the best thing that could happen to the C's in the first round would be for them to lose either game one or two at home. Never shying away from a chance to toot my own horn, I think most of you would have to agree that the game 2 setback, and, thus, the forfeiture of homecourt advantage, was the key to the Celtics advancement.

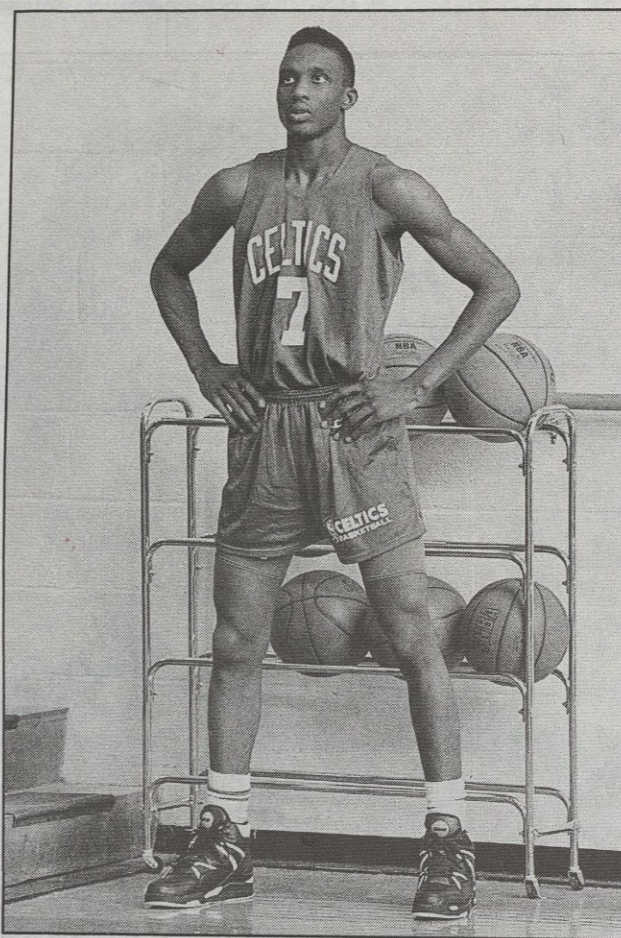
I mean, let's face it. Despite six days worth of allegedly ultra-intense practice sessions before the best-of-five series began, the overall performances in games 1 and 2 looked like a continuation of the woeful regular season stretch run. In the opener, the highly favored C's more or less coasted through three quarters before turning it up just enough to slip past their cold shooting visitors during crunch time. As one might expect, the combined effort for the second meeting was a similarly lackluster one, especially at the defensive end, and this time long range specialists Chuckie Person and Reggie Miller made their hosts pay for failing to fight through picks and rush out at them on the perimeter.

So, shocked and more than a little embarrassed by having frittered away the advantage to the seventh seeded Pacers, the C's turned in pretty close to complete efforts in games three, four and five, and, as a result, not only slapped down the upstart Pacers, but also came away expo-

nentially more prepared on a psychological level for the long haul than they had been heading in.

ASIDE: As we all know, the only reason this thing went five was because of the Celtics admittedly disturbing inability to cope with the all out defensive pressure turned on by the Pacers down the stretch-it cost them in game 4 and almost dearly in the finale. If they had executed the offense up to snuff in game 4, Person's unconscious bombarding in the waning minutes either would have never taken place or been too little too late. Needless to say, their difficulties of late with handling pressure is something they're going to have to find a solution to if they possess any hope whatsoever of turning in a respectable showing against Detroit's defensive demons.

Now that they have excoriated the Pacers (and the NBA's newest villain, Chuck Person), trying to guess how much further the Celtics will go in the post season is only slightly less difficult than picking a winning ticket in the state lottery. They're still a team that could go all the way if things break for them the right way (i.e. Larry's back holds out, Larry's perimeter game returns to reasonable form, the guards start hitting their outside shots with regularity, the green point guard tandem of Shaw and Brown play with more consistency, they find a way to defeat pressure defenses, Derek Smith continues to be physically able enough to answer the call on tough defensive assignments, and, of course, good health in general is maintained), though it would come as no less of



Dee Brown is gaining invaluable seasoning in these playoffs.

a surprise to most observers if they were swept away in four by the Pistons.

Fortunately, however, if there is one encouraging tidbit Celtics backers can put their stock in it is that, as prayed for, thanks chiefly to the commendable challenge provided by Indiana, the all-important mental edge clearly appears to be back in place.

Now, for Celtic diehards, no matter how the boys in green make out in the play-offs from here on out, the season will still end on a very big positive note.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I've spent the last few months sweating out Larry Bird's final decision on what he would do about his chronic back ache as much as I ever have any Celtics post-season series. So, needless to say, when Boston Globe scribe Jackie MacMullen reported in the April 24 edition of that paper that the 34-year old legend would undergo corrective surgery on his congenitally defective lower spine at the end of the season, I offered a few quiet words of thanks to the leprechaun.

Clearly, there was no way Larry was ever going to even chance a recurrence of this year's ordeal, which saw him experiencing debilitating discomfort for close to two-thirds of the season despite sitting out 22 regular season games, continuous therapy and treatment, regularly skipping practices and management's hiring of a charter service to fly the team to and from road games.

Of course, what this announcement really means for the Celtic faithful is at least

one more 'last shot' at rooting for a championship caliber team before the dreaded rebuilding phase begins, providing, of course, that Larry bounces back from surgery as well as everyone who wears a white coat assures us he will. Beyond this, over the off-season, the fans will have few uncertainties, but several knowns and good likelihoods to contemplate- which, when factored out, add up to a very optimistic outlook.

The knowns are that Kevin McHale and The Chief will be back for another go, and that Reggie Lewis, Kevin Gamble (who you better believe will be re-signed), Brian Shaw and Dee Brown will have some very valuable seasoning under their belt. The good likelihoods are that Eddie Pinckney having seemingly finally caught on to what has been expected of him all along- will pick up where he left off as a rebounding madman and defensive specialist, Derek Smith will reup and be ready to go at close to whatever is now 100 percent for him and they'll get a big body in the draft who'll be able to help- since you consider that there is one the richest crops of centers and power forwards with legitimate NBA ability (20 in my own estimation) in recent memory available this year.

Realizing the desire of the hordes to hold those in this profession, who tend to shamelessly dole out opinions like salesmen do business cards, accountable, I think it best that I fill in the blanks for my last parenthetical observation.

So, here, in the order I humbly project that they'll be drafted, are the 20 centers and power forwards I believe are each capable at making a true run at one of the 324 spots on NBA rosters.

Centers- Dikembe Motombo (Georgetown), Brian Williams (Arizona), Donald Hodge (Temple), Luc Longley (New Mexico State), Dale Davis (Clemson), Stanley Roberts (Spain/LSU) and Rich King (Nebraska).

Power Forwards- Billy Owens (Syracuse), Larry Johnson (UNLV), Doug Smith (Missouri), Chris Gatling (Old Dominion), Brian Shorter (Pitt), Victor Alexander (Iowa State), Shaun Vandiver (Colorado), Mark Randall (Kansas), Melvin Cheatum (Alabama), LeRon Ellis (Syracuse), Perry Carter (Ohio State), Bobby Martin (Pitt) and Anthony Avent (Seton Hall).

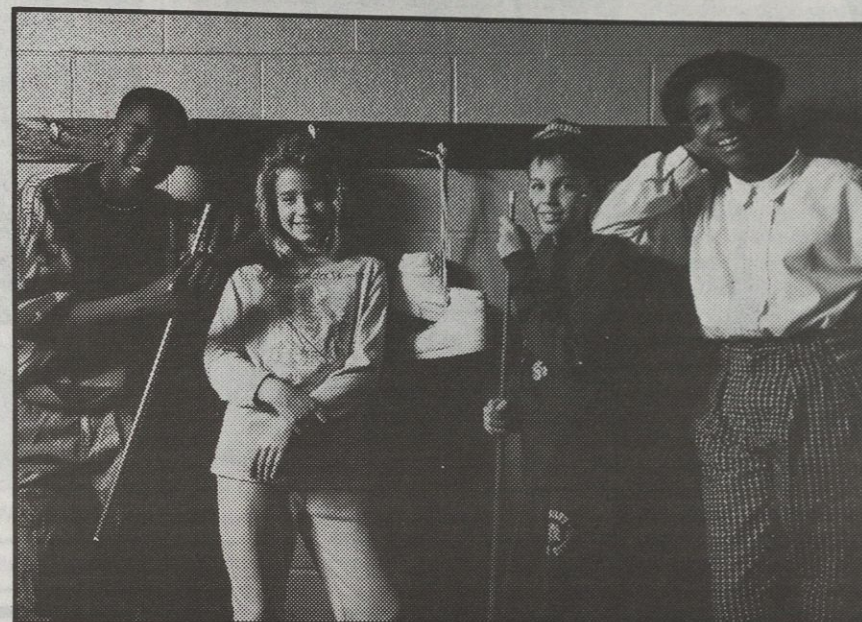
Now, considering the Celtics will choose 24th overall in the first round, it seems pretty reasonable to think that several of these youngsters I contend could help them will still be around when they send news of their choice up to the Commish's podium, especially with virtual first round locks such as Kenny Anderson, Steve Smith, Stacy Augmon, Mark Macon, Terrell Brandon, Rick Fox, Rodney Monroe, Malik Sealy and Doug Overton also there for the taking.

CLOSING THOUGHT: With the acquisition of Ricky Pierce and fellow long ranger Eddie Johnson, along with the continued strong play of Sedale Threatt, even Head Coach K.C. Jones has publicly acknowledged the fact that there just aren't enough minutes left to work local folk hero Dana Barros into the Supersonics regular rotation, and word is that they're already looking for any reasonable offer on the speedy little golden gunner.

Whadayathink Chris?...Dave? ...Red? Could this Celtics team use a guy who has range guaranteed to spread opposing defenses and who could be used in a crunch at the point, to boot?

In the city, CLUBS work better than GUNS.

The way to fight violence is not with more violence. It's by creating a safe and nurturing environment where kids can learn, grow and thrive. For nearly



Best Year in School Ever that has had a dramatic effect on reducing truancy. And an Adult Learning Program to develop parenting skills and provide job training,

while providing daycare services for the pre-school children of participants.

Today our programs benefit more than 5,000 kids every year—kids living in high-need areas like Charlestown, Roxbury, South Boston and Dorchester/Mattapan.

We have educational programs, including computer training, nutrition, arts and crafts, cultural development, and homework help. Prevention programs that focus on drugs, violence and teenage pregnancy. A program called the

However, we're always striving to do more. And always looking for more people—like you—to donate their time, money and expertise.

For more information or to arrange for a tour of our Clubs, give us a call at 574-9014. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston is an affiliated agency of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BOSTON

294 Washington St., Boston, MA 02108 (617) 574-9014

In-kind services donated by: Harry DeZitter (photography); PARTNERS & Simons (design); Dan Brown (copy); SALZAR (typesetting); Unigraphics (engraving).

MOVING?

Don't forget your subscription to CELTICS PRIDE. Often we forget those publications that we don't receive every day. However, you will be very upset if your next issue doesn't arrive.

Please secure your mailing label from your most recent issue below and fill in your new address.

PLACE LABEL
FROM MOST RECENT ISSUE HERE

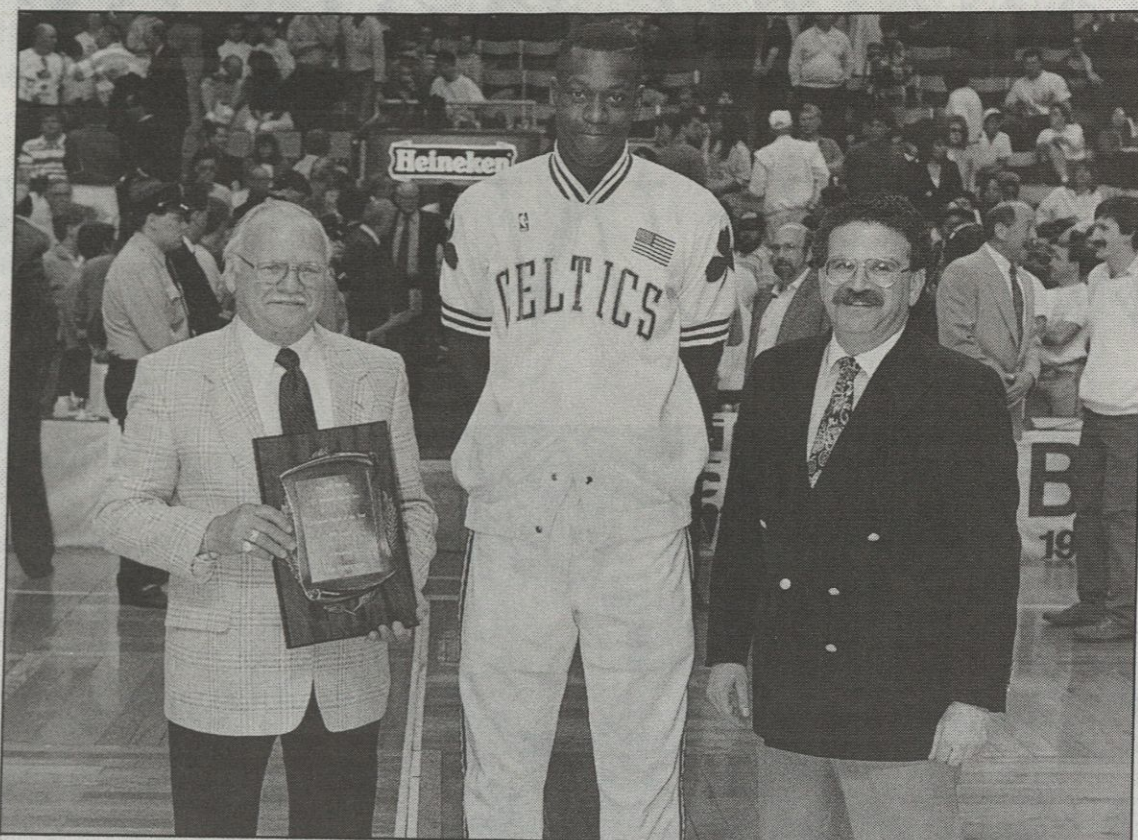
New Address Here

SEND TO:

CELTICS PRIDE, Change of Address, 85 Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903

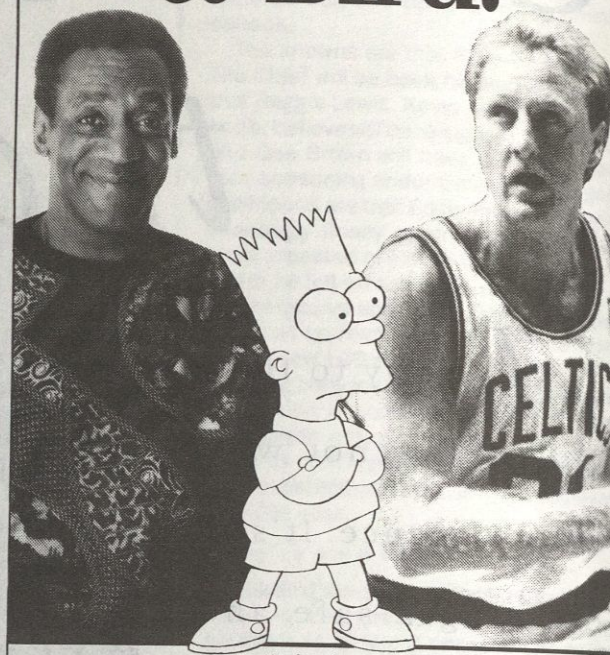


Ed Pinckney Receives Defensive Player of the Year Award



At halftime of the April 28th playoff game vs. Indiana, Celtics fans at the Boston Garden cheered Ed Pinckney as he was presented with the WEEI-US Protective Alarms "Defensive Player of the Year" Award. Pictured presenting Ed with the award is (left) Bill Cramer, President of US Protective Alarm and (right) John Laton Executive V.P. and General Manager of WEEI Radio, flagship of the Boston Celtics Radio Network.

Bill, Bart & Bird.



FOX 25
THE BOSTON FOX WFXT-TV

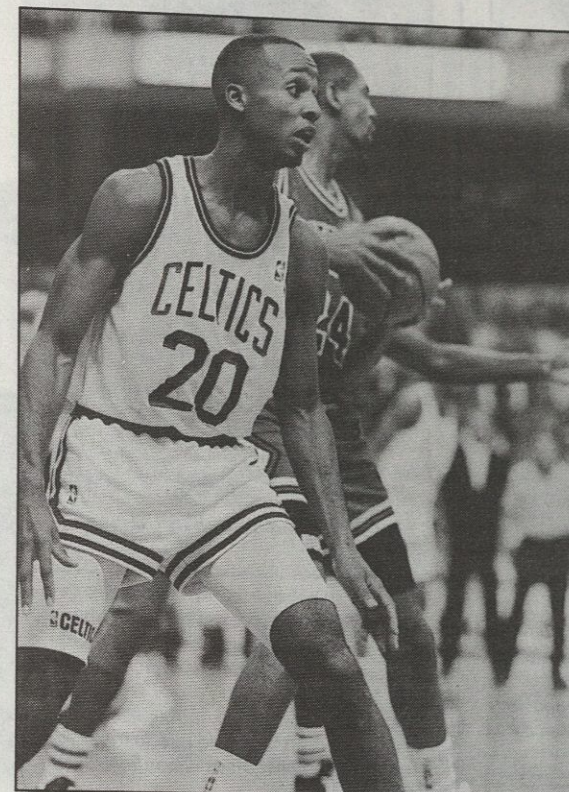
TM & © 1990 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Confidential

Celtics Fans' Psyches Were Tested

By Bob Schron

Playoff Confidential. Optimism and Pessimism competed with fury for dominance in Celtic fans' psyches, early this playoff season. "We've played hard, we've come to play on the road, and generally, we've played well," said the usual Prince of Pessimism, Larry Joe Bird. "Against Indiana, we knew they'd score points, so we had to score ourselves. I thought we did it by moving the ball well offensively. We turned the ball over too much, but I think you have to give the Pacers credit, too." ...Bird of course embodies both the optimism here as well as doubt. Thought unable to play three times against Indiana, each time he rose up, especially in Games One and Five, the latter one of the all time classics... "I think Larry is worth every bit of his ink," commented Derek Smith after Bird refused to allow the team to take him to the hospital during halftime of Game Five and subsequently returned to star. "I thought we would win if Larry's back was OK, and my knee held up." ...Smith, also a cause for optimism: Chris Ford has keyed in on Derek as a critical player this playoff season. The two met in that memorable meeting April 5th behind closed doors at Hellenic College, after Derek had returned to action the previous night against New Jersey, and wondered — actually worried — aloud about the wisdom of the team's having activated him. Ford told Smith that he (i.e., Derek) is a basketball player. Simple. And profound, to a player who has coped with the witch of every athlete's mind — the career ending injury. "Every time I put the uniform on, I remember it may be the last time," said Smith. "I decided (on the last day of the regular season) I had to try and play again." ...On the other side, pessimism. Bird's injury may not hold up, as Jackie MacMullan of *The Boston Globe* reminds. The team struggled, in fact, against the Pacers, specifically because



The Celtics need a focused Brian Shaw to win the title.

Brian Shaw wavered. Shaw, great this season according to Bob Cousy though playoff experienced, is really going through this for the first time, i.e., leading a seasoned group with a legitimate championship hope in the postseason. Shaw is a very sensitive person, a type who will take criticism and/or failure deeply (he acknowledges this, pointing out he has to because he's the playmaker) and then fight back harder. Red Auerbach has understood this character trait from the beginning this season. "The team needs Bird to win," he said earlier. "But Brian Shaw's great play has been our spark." The Celtics can win this championship; as Bob Ryan

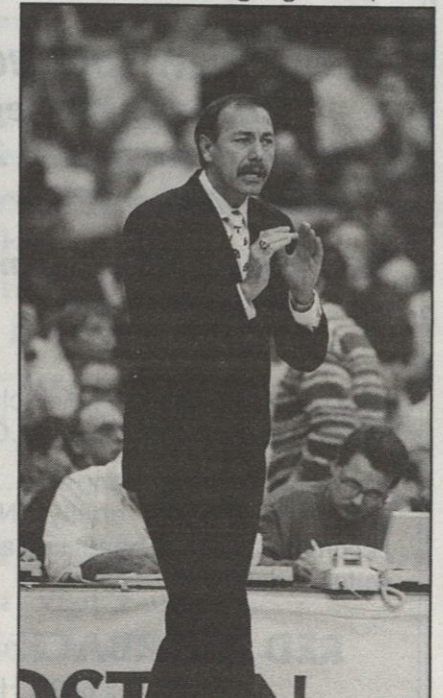
pointed out in an interview in the last issue of *Celtics Pride*, they can feel confident against Portland because they've shown themselves they can beat Portland. But in order to win it, they obviously need health, and a very focused Shaw. Shaw at his best: a team player extraordinaire, at 6'6" rebounding and penetrating, harassing opponents on the wing with wingspan.

NOTES. According to Chuck Person, many can look anywhere, but the key to the Celtics' success is Robert Parish, who positively starred in Game Five against the Pacers. "Parish is The Man. He doesn't get the publicity, but he's always there. Getting the rebound they need, making the great shots. And (the other team) always is wary of him." ...Jackie MacMullan on Detroit's struggle this season: "In the championship years, you understood the critical reason was their mental intensity. This season, the word out of Detroit was how they were saving it all for the playoffs. It just wasn't the same." ...MacMullan thinks Bill Laimbeer may retire following this season... Broadcaster Steve Mix thinks the Celtics will upend Detroit in this round, but that Chicago will defeat the Celtics. "I think Chicago's team speed is better. I don't think Boston will be able to handle Chicago's trapping defense, and the way they rotate the ball on offense. And how do they stop Michael Jordan?" ...Kevin McHale is also edging toward retirement, if recent interview with Fox' Jimmy Meyers should be listened to: "I was very excited about this season. Then, the ankle injury (Feb. 14 in SFA); when I was out playing with the kids, I suddenly realized how long the injury is taking to heal. It's a clear cut sign of age, and it was uncomfortable." ...And: "People forget about you quickly; I came to the Celtics when Dave Cowens and Pete Maravich were finishing up their careers. Two of the game's greatest. But then the next day after they retired, I looked in the newspaper and there was only a paragraph each about them, and then it was all about the team today. Sports lives on the moment. We have to look out for our lives." ...

Isiah Thomas acknowledges that the Pistons will be broken up after the season ends. "I think it's something all of our players realize and accept," he said. "We know that this is the way it has to be, that the organization needs to place fresh talent in here, but I think we can still get it done (i.e., win the title). Because we're veterans, and we've done it, and we've seen how Boston did it and the Lakers won. You don't need to win every game in the playoffs. You don't need to win every road game, either. But we're good enough, and we've shown ourselves through the years, that we're capable of winning one game on an opponent's floor." ...Thomas also admits dissent on the team. "But

we're determined to win. When we're on the floor, I may not like (my teammate), but I won't do anything to him to make us lose the basketball game." ...

Kevin Gamble also drew attention from Person: "I want to single Gamble out. It's tough to stop a player who's having a hot series and Gamble shouldn't hang his head. He's a very good player, and there will be other days." Stated by The Rifleman after Game Five... MacMullan on Michael Smith: "It doesn't appear it's working out for Smith here. But I will say this about him: In a situation like his, where he isn't playing at all, it would be a perfect opportunity for him to come out and blast the Celtics. He hasn't. He's sat there and hasn't complained at all. He's won my respect." ...Person and Bird took turns lambasting each other (a) on the court, (b) verbally on the court, and (c) in the press. But according to GM Donnie Walsh of the Pacers, they're good friends. "People get the wrong impression of Person. But he's a great person. He and Larry are friends." Something the two gladiators acknowledge. Person has played in The Bird All-Star Game in summers past to benefit Indiana Boys Clubs. This writer has observed the two talking pregame in the past, for twenty minutes, Bird advising the then-young player to persevere what were some difficult times for Person in the Indiana organization... Derek Smith and Person were verbally at it in Game Five: "Nothing vulgar at all," said



Chris Ford feels Derek Smith could be a key player in the playoffs.

Smith. "Each of us were saying, 'How much time till vacation starts?'" ...Larry Bird became the team's all-time playoff scoring leader during a spectacular third quarter run in Game Five of the Pacers' series, passing John Havlicek... And finally, more Celtics perspective: This week Cowens and Tiny Archibald will be inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame. Bill Fitch remains solid in New Jersey, according to Dan Garcia, a New York reporter who covers the Nets.

CELTICS VIDEOS

VIDEO LIBRARY VIDEO LIBRARY

To order, please use order form on page 29.

• **CELTICS VIDEO YEARBOOK 1985-86** •
NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW ITEM!!
The year of the "shooting stars."
This exclusive video contains footage no one has ever seen before. Pre-game planning session, half-time huddles, post-game analyses. Re-live the most thrilling moments of the playoffs with the Houston Rockets. Experience the Celts pain and their joy, share the excitement of their triumphs, witness quiet moments with family at home. 48 min.
#15\$39.95

• **HISTORY OF THE NBA** •
This new 1990 video will have you re-live five decades of dynasties and rivalries. Watch the incredible exploits of such legends of the game as Dave Cowen, Bill Walton, "Pistol" Pete Maravich, Larry Bird, and more.
#48\$24.95

• **CELTICS '87** •
Home of the Brave 86-87 season plus Sweet Sixteen 85-86 Championship season. A powerhouse double feature re-living the 85-86 championship season. Go onto 86-87 when three time MVP Larry Bird and an injury plagued team battle the Lakers in the Finals. 60 min.
#77\$35.95

• **DYNASTY RENEWED** •
1981. Robert Parish and Kevin McHale joined Larry Bird to rebuild a new dynasty. They would face the 76'ers and Dr. J in a wild series that saw six of the seven games decided in the final minute. Witness all the action in the finals against the surprising Houston Rockets that will never be forgotten! 60 min.
#158\$24.95

• **1986 NBA ALL STAR WEEKEND** •
Experience the whole All-Star weekend starting with the Legends Classic, the Long Distance Shootout and the Slam dunk championship, and of course the game itself with Bird and McHale at their best.
#168\$29.95

• **NBA'S AWESOME ENDINGS** •
Here's the tape that definitely proves "it ain't over 'til it's over!" Includes the most incredible last-second swishes, buzzer-beating buckets, and zappy endings in NBA history. Larry's steals and assists in the 1987 playoffs enabling them to advance to the Finals over the Detroit Pistons. 30 minutes of incredible action.
#7\$17.95

• **RED ON ROUNDBALL** •
Learn basketball from the pros. Starring Red Auerbach and a host of basketball greats. Dave Cowens, Bob Cousy, Tiny Archibald, Elgin Baylor, Bill Walton, and more.
#34\$27.95

• **NBA SUPERSTARS** •
This is one to play and play again! Includes incredible footage of the NBA's leading superstars (Larry Bird) with spectacular superstar hit music! Billy Joel's "This is the Time," Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love of All," Janet Jackson's "Control," and many more. This 32-minute tape captures the spirit of the game like nothing else.
#8\$17.95

• **DAZZLING DUNKS AND BASKETBALL BLOOPERS** •
Features past and present superstars of the NBA in their most glorious...as well as their most embarrassing moments. 45 min.
#47\$24.95

• **PRIDE AND PASSION** •
1984. The Celtics and Lakers re-live all the pride and passion as the NBA's most storied rivals climax in one of basketball's most exciting and memorable seasons. 60 min.
#153\$29.95

Do You Know How To Read Your Mailing Label?

We here at WESTON COMMUNICATIONS often get calls from our readers asking us when their subscriptions will be expiring. With a quick look at your mailing label you will be able to answer this question with this simple explanation:

CP 972029 06/15
Larry Bird
85 Old Long Ridge Rd.
Stamford, Ct 06903

Larry's account number is the first group of numbers above his name, CP 972029. The CP indicated that he subscribes to CELTICS PRIDE. The next group of numbers, 06/15 shows that Larry's subscription would expire with Volume 6, Issue 15. There are 20 issues per volume in a one year subscription. The volume and issue can be found on the corner of each issue.

IF YOU STILL HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE:
(203) 329-2000, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.



NBA Notebook

New York's Revolving Door Of Coaches

By Andy Roth

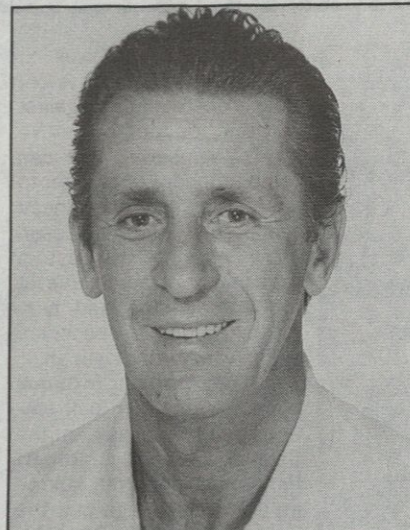
The following article reflects the opinion of an independent writer who writes for several publications and are in no way the views of the *Boston Celtics* or *Celtics Pride*.

You would think George Steinbrenner was running the Knicks in recent years, too, by the number of coaching changes made over the last five seasons. With the so-called departure of John MacLeod to Notre Dame, the Knicks will be hiring their sixth head coach since 1986.

Club President Dave Checketts, speaking at MacLeod's farewell press conference, stressed the need for stability, and said the next coach would be given a long-term commitment to build a winning team.

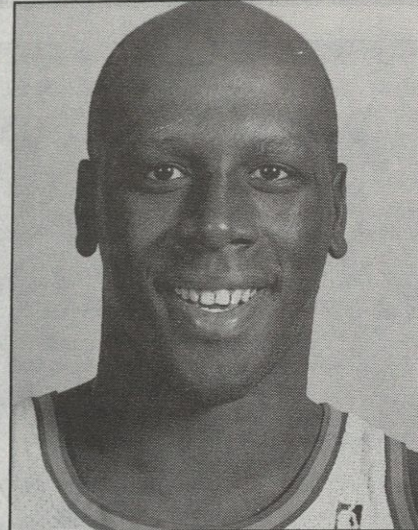
"We're going to change that history by bringing in people who are going to be here a long time," Checketts said. "I'd like to see a guy come in and be here for six or seven seasons."

"It's important for the players to understand that. This guy is going to be here. You (players) may not be here. You don't listen, you don't give an effort, you don't do what we ask you to do, another club will use your services."



Could Pat Riley be headed for New York?

Checketts has specific requirements for his next head coach. "I want a proven winner, that's Number 1," he said. "We want a guy who we feel like we can work with. As I look back over the history of what's happened here, the divisions between management and coaching have been a major problem. So



The X-Man disappeared in the Suns' final game.

we've got to be real comfortable that this guy is somebody we can exist with. I don't mean somebody who's going to take our directions, but someone who's going to present a united front."

Forget all the rhetoric. If Checketts had his choice, the man he would hire is the man he already asked NBC permission to talk to — Pat Riley.

Mary Albert, who doubles as both an NBC basketball broadcaster and TV voice of the Knicks, wondered out-loud during an NBC telecast if Riley was wearing a Knicks' T-shirt under his regular shirt. Do you think Marv knows something?...

The Sixers won the Atlantic Division Title last season and advanced to the second round of the playoffs where they were eliminated by the Chicago Bulls. This season, Philly finished second to the Celtics in the Atlantic. They upset the Bucks in the opening round, setting up another meeting and probable elimination by the Bulls.

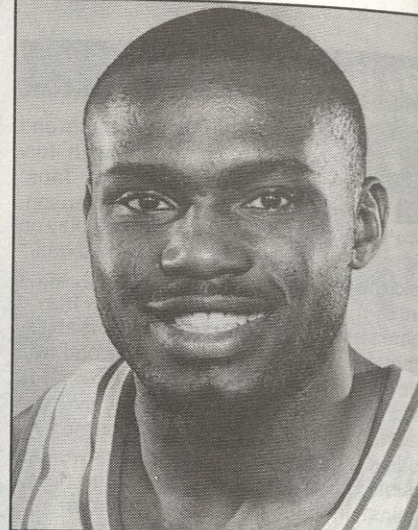
The big difference this season is the Sixers accomplished all they did without Johnny Dawkins. Give a great deal of credit to 34-year-old Ricky Green, who stepped into Dawkins' starting spot.

"I knew I could come in and play hard and show some leadership," said Green. "I knew I could handle the situation, but I hadn't really played in four years. Now I'm going against the other starters again, but I don't feel like anybody's going to use me out there. People have this frame of mind about age. I hate to hear it. Old is however you feel."

X'D OUT: The Phoenix Suns thought the acquisition of Xavier McDaniel would provide the missing piece to the championship puzzle. Instead, the Suns took a first round "X"-it, as McDaniel averaged just 8.5 points and shot a miserable 31% in the four-game loss to the Jazz. The X-Man disappeared in the final game, playing only 14 minutes, scoring 2 points on 1 of 6 shooting.

Eddie Johnson, who was dealt by Phoenix in the McDaniel deal, led a near upset of the Trailblazers. Who would have thought after the big trade, that the Suns and Sonics would go out in the same round...

Kareem Abdul Jabbar pulls no punches in assessing the Lakers' chances of winning the championship. "I think Portland's sure to be in the finals," he said. "They've been the most consistent all year. They have seasoned veterans in top shape. They are my pick to win it. The Lakers have great athletes, but their interior defense is something they're



Tim Hardaway's tremendous crossover dribble is tough to contend with.

going to live and die with in the playoffs."

The Lakers interior defense may not get tested too much by their second round opponent, the upstart Golden State Warriors. Don Nelson's small lineup has a lot of great jump shooters, i.e., Mullin, Richmond and Marculonis.

But the guy who makes it happen for those three and the rest of the Warriors is Tim Hardaway. The relentless second year point guard continues to elevate his game. He dominated Rod Strickland in the Warriors' opening round upset of the Spurs.

Hardaway's tremendous crossover dribble allows him to either get in the paint or pull up for the jumper.

As much as the Lakers will have to deal with Hardaway, the Warriors will have to do the same with James Worthy. Worthy will have to make Don Nelson pay for using his small lineup, with some big offensive games...

WOULD YOU REPEAT THAT? Here's Gerald Wilkins' thoughts after hearing about another Knicks' coaching change: "It's always hard when you make changes because change can bring on a new change. But when it really does bring on new changes, that makes difficult changes too."

Unfortunately, attempts to reach Wilkins' interpreter have been unsuccessful...

It looks as though Alex English's long and very productive basketball career has come to an end. The Mavericks failed to renew the option on the contract of the fifteen year veteran, and it's very unlikely any other team will pick him up...

Derek Harper, English's teammate this season, became the first player in NBA history to increase his scoring average every season over his first eight seasons...

DOMESTIC DUTIES? Jim Les of the Sacramento Kings led the NBA in three point shooting this season at .461 (71-154), but not without help from his wife.

Les used his free time during the summer practicing his long-range shooting. His rebounder was none other than his wife Jodi. An example of true love? Well, sort of. But just as athletes have incentive clauses, Les had some for his wife. "I'd say, 'C'mon honey, I'll buy you a bathing suit,'" said Les, who spent most of last season and the beginning of this season in the CBA. "That got me fifteen more minutes." Then, "C'mon baby, we'll pick out a great new outfit," which led to 200 more shots.

"By the end of the summer, my credibility was gone and so was our money."

Red Auerbach Basketball School

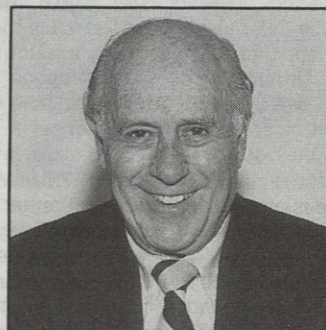
OUR NEW LOCATION

Babson College

July 21 thru July 26

Boys: Ages 12 — 18

31st Consecutive Summer
1960 — 1991



Now play hoop like you never played before! By learning from the best Pro lecturers and clinics...Celtic Rookie Camp

A highly qualified coaching staff...Intense individual team instruction geared to players ability...Now featuring college campus accommodations at beautiful Babson College in Wellesley. Call or write for details:

RED AUERBACH Basketball School

P.O. Box 6494, Holliston, MA 01746
(508) 435-4414

Sign up this player for your school immediately. Enclosed is registration deposit of \$150.00 to guarantee reservation.

Please rush brochure to:

Player's Name _____ Phone () _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Ht. _____ Wt. _____ Pos. _____

You'll Love What We Do For You!



At Fox Toyota we make our customers feel special, whether they're buying a car or having it serviced.

There's a certain chemistry among the Fox Toyota team that keeps our customers coming back, which is why we sell more Toyota cars than any Rhode Island dealership. And that's exactly why we were named the Official Car Dealership of the Boston Celtics again this year.

Like the Celtics, Fox Toyota has a long tradition of excellence. New Englanders are proud that the Celtics are the single most winning franchise in professional sports with 16 World Championships.

And all of us at Fox Toyota are equally proud of our performance over the years.

Fox Toyota won the prestigious Toyota President's Award for four consecutive years, which recognizes our performance by our customers. And the Fox Toyota team is the only dealership in the country that has won the Service Excellence Award for 12 consecutive years. It acknowledges our commitment to quality service.

When tradition, excellence and performance are important to you, visit Fox Toyota to buy or lease your next new car or truck.

The Official Car Dealership Of The Boston Celtics



Fox Toyota • 415 Taunton Ave. • Rte. 44 • E. Providence, RI 02914
401-438-0350



Surviving The Pressure

Brian Shaw Is Under The Microscope During The Playoffs

By Jim Bianchine

The whispers could be heard in the runways and throughout the hallowed halls of the ancient basketball mecca.

Those sounds were not coming from the ghosts that haunt the fabled Boston Garden. Many were from the lips of the critical Boston media following the Celtics 130-118 homecourt loss to Indiana in Game 2 of the first round of the 1991 NBA playoffs and the target was point-guard Brian Shaw.

When the Celtics lose, fingers are always pointed and the point-guard often replaces the bullseye.

Despite his accomplishments in a season that saw the Celtics win 56 games

despite a rash of injuries and still walk away with the Atlantic Division crown by 12 games, the young guard is going to be judged on what the team he directs does in the post-season. Regular season memories are short-lived in this tough town.

"I think the microscope is on everybody in the playoffs, but especially on the point-guard. He's the one out there with the ball trying to carry out the coach's orders.

The spotlight is definitely on you," said Brian Shaw following the Celtics dramatic 124-121 Game 5 win over the Pacers to advance into the second round on the Celtics quest for yet another NBA title.

Shaw, in his second full season after spending a year playing in Italy, like any other young guard whose responsibility is to run the team, realizes to be a successful leader, it takes years of experience and

lots of ups and downs along the way.

In his brief NBA career, he has never seen intensity like he faced in the scintillating series in which the Pacers put extraordinary pressure on the Celtics young backcourt.

"There were so many highs and lows in the series. It was everything that you could ask for," said Shaw, who had to gain a year's worth of experience in about a week of playoff intensity.

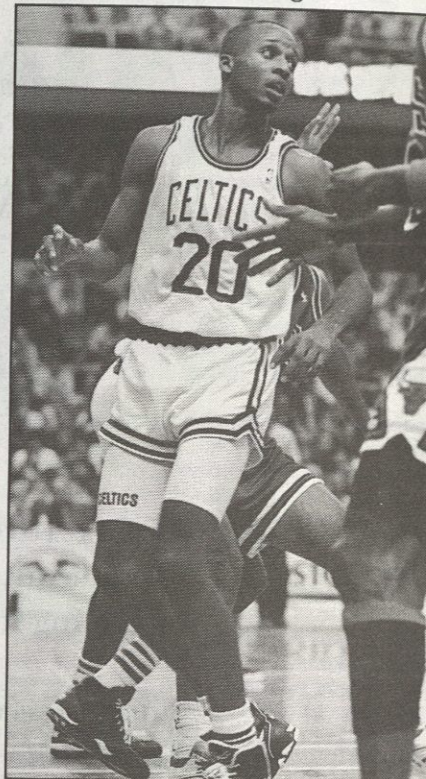
"They (Indiana) played us tough and that's what it's all about," he said, seemingly thriving on the pressure and the experience.

He realized, win or lose, he personally had so much to gain and felt he discovered a wealth of experience from the school of hard knocks, but became a better guard for it.

"In a situation like this, I learned a lot, especially for a guy who has been in the league as short a time as I have. I've been subjected to a lot of different situations and have learned something every day.

"Larry, Robert and Kevin have taught me a lot. A lot of guys would envy this position," said Shaw, relishing in his role rather than worrying about how he may be judged in the high-profile spotlight.

The sizzling series against the Pacers was not without bumps and bruises both physically and mentally for the young guard trying to carve his way into the elite among the point-guards of the league.



Shaw: "Larry, Robert, and Kevin have taught me a lot. A lot of guys would envy this position."

Though he and his teammates would have been happy to forgo the drama of a fifth game and sweep the Pacers, Shaw looks back on the series as one that forced him to mature or go home early for the summer.

"It (the first round series) seemed like it took forever to end. You always wish it was over in three quick games, but I'm sort of glad it did go to the wire," he said in retrospect.

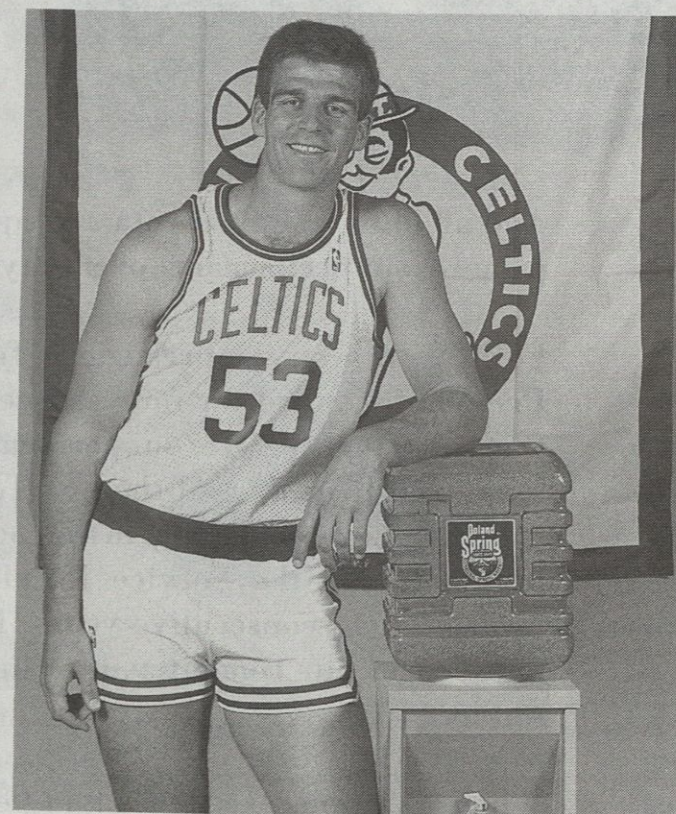
"It gave us (young players) more experience. Now I have an idea of what to expect," he said.

Shaw has grown into the position more and more with every passing game, but found the playoffs to be an entirely new situation and the Pacers provided as true a test as anyone could have.

Explosive guard Michael Williams continued to give the Boston backcourt fits throughout the series and oftentimes the lessons learned against him came the hard way.

In evaluating his season, Shaw said, "It's been decent. I think I've been sinking so far in the playoffs. But, you have your ups and downs, but we're still playing right now," he said of the bottom line this time of year.

Joe Kleine enjoys Poland Spring at home and at courtside.



For over 100 years people around New England have enjoyed Poland Spring natural spring water. Our pure natural spring water is protected by over 400 wooded pine acres in the heart of Maine.

To find out how you can get Poland Spring delivered to your home, just as the Celtics do each game, please give us a call.

(800) 453-1011

Please mention the Boston Celtics when calling and you'll receive our Special Offer.*

*New customers only, bottle deposit required.

Preferred by the Boston Celtics



CELTICS PRIDE

Game 5 was typical of the ups and downs Shaw has experienced in the playoffs.

In the third quarter of a struggle for survival between a pair of teams locked in mortal combat like two bull elephants, in the deciding game, Shaw was all alone on a breakaway and lost the ball out of bounds.

He came right back to dish off a pass to Robert Parish for an easy hoop and seconds later knifed through a sea of Pacers in the lane and scored with his left hand off the glass to atone for his earlier embarrassing blunder.

In the closing minutes, with the Pacers putting on a furious final surge and the Celtics lead dwindling, it was Shaw who coolly stepped to the free throw line in one of the most pressure-filled games of his life.

He hit four free throws in the final 6.6 seconds to help win the game.

"He comes to win. He showed what kind of player he is with the game on the line, hitting those big free throws," said teammate Reggie Lewis.

"I really think he has been the key to our season. The point-guard is an important ingredient to any team's success. He's done the job all year," said Lewis.

Lewis pointed to Shaw's makeup which is right for the part.

"The key to his success is he has no big ego problem. He's a great leader," he said.

In order to be a leader of men like Bird, Parish and McHale, a guard has to have one thing above all the other physical tools that got him to the pro ranks. He must carry himself with confidence.

"It's not easy to tell experienced players that have been around a long time

what to do. But I like the way things have worked out so far.

If I wasn't a confident player I wouldn't be out there. Doc (Chris Ford) and all my teammates have faith in me and I have faith in myself," said Shaw, who is counted on in Boston to keep the faith when it comes to the sacred issue of basketball.

"I like the way things have worked out so far. It's kinda' been like throwing you into the water and it's sink or swim. I'll learn as I go along.

"I know things are not always going to go good. You are foolish if you think you are not going to make mistakes," said Shaw, sounding more like a seasoned veteran.

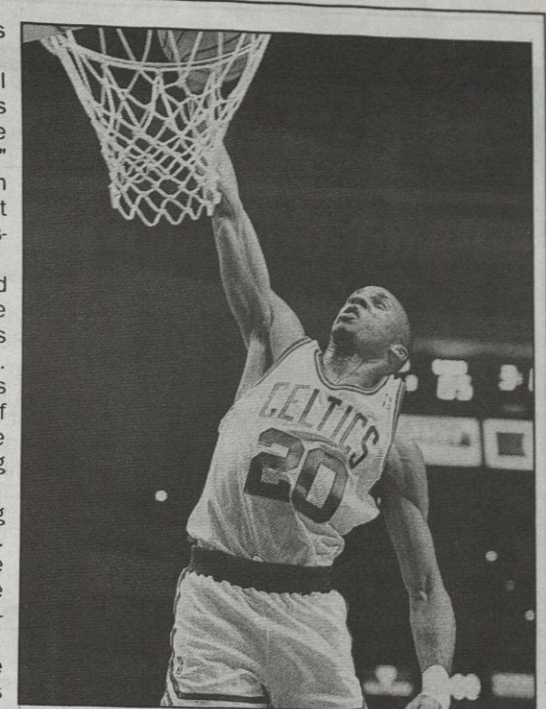
Despite his approach, he is young and will continue to be tested. Teams will test him to make sure he is physical enough. They will force him to find the open man in transition.

They will find out if he has the necessary savvy to give the Celtics the direction needed in the halfcourt game. But most of all they will find out what he is made of when he has to react to pressure.

At times against the Pacers, the Celtics let the Indiana guards dictate the tempo. Against the defending NBA champion Detroit Pistons, Shaw will face the ultimate challenge of one of the best three-guard rotations in the game in Isiah Thomas, Vinnie Johnson and Joe Dumars.

He will again face the possibility of sinking. However, most of the season, the steady Shaw has done the backstroke, gliding through a highly successful regular season and surviving the stiffest of tests in the first round of the playoffs.

Good times and bad times will continue. Shaw has seen both sides. Against the



Shaw: "I like the way things have worked out so far."

Pacers he committed more turnovers (17) in five games than any player on either team. In Game 2, he allowed Williams to isolate and take him one-on-one to the hoop, blowing past him for four three-point plays. Yet Brian Shaw averaged 14 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and delivered nearly six assists a game in the series and simply got the job done.

As the playoffs continue, so does the schooling for the young Boston guard who carries a good average into the NBA version of final exam week.

Rather than worry about pressure, he is anxious for the opportunity to learn all about it.

ANSWERING THE CALL OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

A WINNING COMBINATION

"There was a time when we spent too much money on our car phone bills.

Then we met the **CELLULAR CONSULTANTS**"

Proud Sponsors Of The Celtics Player Of The Month Award

Nationwide
Cellular Service

Authorized Dealer
Cellular Consultants
6 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803
(617) 270-3779

Regional Office
73 Lexington Street
Newton, MA 02166
800-228-NCS-1



Game By Game

Celts Get Past Pacers

By Bob Schron

BOSTON 127, INDIANA 120
APRIL 26
BOSTON GARDEN
GAME 1 - 1ST ROUND SERIES

Larry Bird returned to form, in an ideal moment, scoring 11 points in the 4th quarter as the Celtics constructed a key 10-0 run in the fourth quarter to win the opener of the playoffs. Bird, regarded as questionable going into the contest because of his recurring back problems, highlighted a triple double by scoring four points with three assists and a steal as the C's snapped a 110-110 tie midway through the final period to ice the win.

"We felt we had a solid week of practice after slumping at the end of the regular season," commented Chris Ford afterward. "I was pleased we were aggressive tonight. Offensively and (better) defensively."

- PLAYOFF REVIEW -

INDIANA												
Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts						
Thompson	27	3-7	0-0	2-8	7	6	23					
Person	37	10-19	0-0	2-8	7	6	23					
Dreiling	18	3-4	0-0	0-2	0	5	6					
Williams	34	6-13	9-9	3-3	6	4	20					
Miller	41	5-12	12-13	0-2	5	2	24					
Schrempf	42	6-13	3-6	3-10	2	4	15					
Smits	19	8-10	1-2	2-4	0	5	17					
Fleming	24	4-7	1-3	2-2	3	3	9					
Sanders	8	0-2	0-0	0-2	0	1	0					
TOTALS	240	45-87	23-33	12-24	24	127	120					

FG% 52.1; FT% 75.8; Three-pt. goals: 0-2, 0.0% (Bird 0-2); Team Rebounds: 8; Blocked: 2 (Parish 1, Brown 1); Turnovers: 10 (Bird 3, Parish 3, Shaw 1, Lewis 2, Pinckney 1); Steals: 8 (Bird 3, Gamble 1, Shaw 1, Lewis 2, Pinckney 1); Technical Fouls: Bird 4:00 (2nd), McHale 5:18 (4th); Illegal Defense: none.

INDIANA 130, BOSTON 118
APRIL 28
BOSTON GARDEN
SERIES TIED 1-1

Both Indiana and Boston indicated the difference in the game was both Person-al, and the Pacers' fast break. Because of an explosive offense, keyed by Chuck Person's 39 points, including a playoff record seven 3-pt. field goals, Indiana returned to the Market Square Arena with the series tied 1-1 after a 130-118 win. The nucleus of Indiana's team is young (Person, Reggie Miller, Detlef Schrempf) and Indiana immediately proved they were in the series to stay, remaining within range during an explosive Celtics' 36 point 1st quarter (Brian Shaw 10 in the period). The Pacers assumed the lead midway through the second quarter on an eight point spree by

Person. The fourth pick in the entire draft in 1986 from Auburn, attempting to legitimize his claim as one of the best in the game, Person sent a message here.

"Person's due for this kind of credit and I'm thrilled for him," noted Pacers' coach Bob Hill.

- PLAYOFF REVIEW -

INDIANA												
Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts						
Thompson	27	5-7	4-4	2-6	3	4	14					
Person	41	16-24	0-0	0-6	2	2	39					
Dreiling	16	0-3	1-2	4-7	0	3	1					
Williams	36	8-14	8-10	1-1	10	4	24					
Miller	40	6-11	1-3	1-4	4	1	15					
Smits	21	5-10	2-2	0-4	0	5	12					
Schrempf	33	5-9	3-3	1-7	3	3	13					
Fleming	21	4-7	2-2	1-5	5	2	10					
Sanders	5	1-2	0-2	0-1	1	1	3					
TOTALS	240	50-87	21-28	10-41	28	130	118					

FG% 57.5; FT% 75.0; Three-pt. goals: 0-4, 0.0% (Person 0-0, Miller 0-1); Team Rebounds: 10; Blocked: 3 (Smits 2, Thompson 1); Turnovers: 16 (Thompson 1, Person 3, Dreiling 1, Williams 1); Steals: 6 (Williams 2, Miller 3, Smits 1); Technical Fouls: none; Illegal defense: none.

BOSTON 112, INDIANA 105
MAY 1
MARKET SQUARE ARENA
C'S 2-1 SERIES LEAD

Kevin McHale's 22 points led the attack as six Celtics scored in double figures to provide a 2-1 series advantage. In a game featuring several verbal exchanges and shoving matches (and LaSalle Thompson's ejection), the keys were both the scoring balance and particularly Boston's greatly improved defense. The Pacers had shot 55% in the first two games of the series and had literally made the C's dizzy with a diversified attack. In this win, the C's made 10 steals, had 6 blocks — McHale had four — and limited the Pacers to 41% from the floor. It was the first C's win in Indiana since 1989.

"There wasn't a change in our gameplan," said Chris Ford. "We stood tall together."

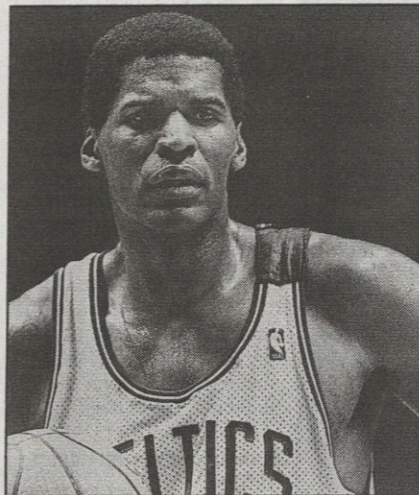
- PLAYOFF REVIEW -

BOSTON												
Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts						
Bird	37	4-10	7-7	0-9	6	4	15					
Gamble	36	8-13	2-2	0-4	3	5	18					
Parish	16	5-6	1-2	3-4	1	5	13					
Lewis	45	5-13	5-8	2-5	3	4	15					
Shaw	44	4-6	7-8	1-4	7	5	15					
McHale	36	8-10	6-6	1-8	3	2	22					
Pinckney	10	1-2	1-2	2-3	0	1	3					
Brown	9	2-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	4					
D.Smith	7	2-3	3-4	0-2	0	3	7					
TOTALS	240	39-88	34-41	10-42	23	112	105					

FG% 57.4; FT% 82.9; Three-pt. goals: 0-4, 0.0% (Bird 0-3, McHale 0-1); Blocked: 6 (McHale 4, Gamble 1, Parish 1); Turnovers: 20 (Bird 3, Gamble 2, Parish 3, Lewis 5, Shaw 5, Brown 2, Smith 2); Steals: 10 (Bird 1, Gamble 2, Parish 2, Lewis 1, Shaw 2, McHale 2); Technical Fouls: McHale 7:35 (3rd); Illegal Defense: none.

INDIANA

Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts
Person	30	2-6	2-4	1-6	1	6



Parish was a steady force during the series.

Thompson	15	3-7	1-1	2-2	1	2	7
Dreiling	19	2-4	2-2	2-5	0	3	7
Miller	37	3-8	8-10	2-3	3	2	20
Williams, M.	41	3-10	12-14	1-6	7	6	18
Smits	21	5-10	2-2	0-4	1	6	12
Schrempf	36	6-13	8-8	4-10	0	4	20
Fleming	28	4-11	4-4	1-2	5	1	12
Sanders	6	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Wittman	6	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2
Williams, K.	1	0-0	0-2	0-0	0	1	0
TOTALS	240	30-71	39-47	12-38	20	27	106

FG% 42.3%; FT% 83.0%; Threept. goals: 27, 28.6%; (Person 2 = Miller 23, Schrempf 01, Fleming 01); Blocked: 2 (Fleming 1, Sanders 1); Fouls: 10 (Miller 5, Williams 1, Smits 2, Schrempf 2, Fleming 1); Steals: 10 (Person 1, Thompson 2, Miller 2, M. Williams 3, Schrempf 1, Sanders 1); Technical fouls: Thompson 7-40 (1st); 7-35 (3rd) (ejected); illegal defense: none.

Indiana	21	24	24	38	-	112
---------	----	----	----	----	---	-----

FG% 42.3; FT% 83.0%; Three-pt. goals: 2-7, 28.6% (Person 0-2, Miller 2-3, Schrempf 0-1, Fleming 0-1); Blocked: 2 (Fleming 1, Smits 1); Turnovers: 15 (Person 2, Thompson 1, Dreiling 1, Miller 5, M. Williams 1, Smits 2, Schrempf 2, Fleming 1); Steals: 10 (Person 1, Thompson 2, Miller 2, M. Williams 3, Schrempf 1, Sanders 1); Technical Fouls: Thompson 7:40 (1st); 7:35 (3rd) (ejected); Illegal defense: none.

BOSTON 29 31 18 34 — 112
Indiana 21 24 24 38 — 105

INDIANA 116, BOSTON 113
MAY 3
MARKET SQUARE ARENA
SERIES TIED 2-2

Chuck Person, again rising after being silenced in Game Three, scored 12 points in the last 5:21, 30 overall as the Pacers rallied from an 82-69 deficit to force a showdown fifth game at the Boston Garden. The Pacers, utilizing a quintet of Person - Mike Sanders - Vern Fleming - Mike Williams - and Reggie Miller, pressed the Celtics out of a smoothly functioning halfcourt game and rallied back into it after three quarters. Sanders hit a crucial buzzer beating 3-point FG to end the third quarter, making the score 85-79 and giving Indiana hope entering the finale.

"We just didn't handle the pressure well," lamented Chris Ford later. "Our offense got us in trouble. We didn't execute the plays when Chuck got hot at the end. It's the second time this year here that we've had big leads and failed to hold it (February 24th, 86-69 Boston lead vanished as Indiana won). Now, it's Game 5, and the team with the strongest will will win."

- PLAYOFF REVIEW -

BOSTON												
Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts						
Bird	40	7-14	3-3	0-6	8	3	18					
Gamble	22	3-9	0-0	0-1	2	3	6					
Parish	36	6-8	6-8	4-12	0	3	18					
Lewis	41	9-17	4-6	2-7	5	2	22					
Shaw	30	4-9	1-1	1-2	5	4	9					
Smith	6	0-1	0-2	0-0	1	2	0					
McHale	37	8-12	6-8	1-5	1	3	24					
Brown	20	5-8	4-4	0-6	1	3	14					
Pinckney	8	0-0	2-2	2-2	0	1	2					
TOTALS	240	42-78	28-34	10-43	23	116	113					

FG% 53.8; FT% 76.5; Three-pt. goals: 3-5, 60.0% (Bird 1-3, McHale 2-2); Team rebounds: 11; Blocked: 5 (Parish 2, McHale 2, Lewis 1); Turnovers: 19 (Bird 3, Gamble 1, Parish 3, Lewis 3, Shaw 4, McHale 1, Brown 3, Pinckney 1); Steals: 6 (Parish 3, Lewis 1, Brown 2); Technical Fouls: none; Illegal defense: none.

INDIANA

	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts
Person	41	10-19	8-8	0-4	2	3	30
Thompson	25	4-7	2-2	1-7	3	4	10
Dreiling	15	0-1	1-2	1-1	0	3	1
Miller	33	11-19	5-5	1-3	0	4	27
Williams, M.	32	6-14	6-6	2-4	9	3	18
Schrempf	40	3-9	5-5	0-3	5	3	11
Smits	15	1-3	0-0	2-6	1	5	2
Fleming	24	4-9	2-2	3-5	4	1	10
Sanders	14	3-4	0-0	0-1	1	0	7
Williams, K.	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	240	42-85	29-30	10-34	25	31	118
FG% 44.9; FT% 97.6; Three-pt. goals: 36, 50.0% (Person 2, Thompson 1, Sanders 1); Team rebounds: 2; Blocked: 3 (Thompson, Sanders 1); Turnovers: 12 (Person 2, Dreiling 1, Williams 5, Schrempf 2, Fleming 2); Steals: 9 (Person 2, Thompson 1, Williams 5, Schrempf 1); Technical fouls: Schrempf, 4; 7 (2nd); Illegal defense: none; Illegal defense:							
BOSTON		36	33	26	18	—	113
Indiana		36	28	24	28	—	113

FG% 49.4; FT% 96.7; Three-pt. goals: 3-6, 50.0% (Person 2-4, Miller 0-1, Sanders 1-1); Team Rebounds: 2; Blocked: 3 (Thompson 1); Turnovers: 12 (Person 2, Miller 2, Williams 5, Schrempf 2, Fleming 2); Steals: 9 (Person 2, Thompson 1, Williams 5, Schrempf 1); Technical Fouls: Schrempf, 47:7 (2nd); Illegal defense: none; Illegal defense: 1.

BOSTON 36 33 28 18 — 113
Indiana 36 28 24 28 — 118

BOSTON 124, INDIANA 121
MAY 5
BOSTON GARDEN
BOSTON WINS SERIES, 3-2

In the quiet of the losing locker room back home in Indiana Friday night, after the Pacers had rallied to win, Larry Bird stood among an army of reporters and commented about Chuck Person's sharp-shooting. Again. "When you get it going like Chuck had it going, there's no better feeling. Then Bird paused, reflecting. "I haven't felt it in a long time." Winding up a series featuring yet another team coming of age against the Celtics, one brimming with emotion ranging from Person's missionary fire to the rocklike consistent Robert Parish stoicism, the Celtics' Bird, had, as Larry himself said, "the last word."

Rising from a possible fractured zygomatic arc in the eye area, the Great One added yet another chapter to his list in leading the Celtics past the Pacers in this round. Bird's 32 point-9 rebound-7 assist effort begins describing it, this complete effort which had yet another playoff opponents' coach raving. Bob Hill: "Bird is superlative, his courage, his effort. He's worth what the Celtics pay him. It's that clear. I thought the Indiana Pacers would win today."

- PLAYOFF REVIEW -

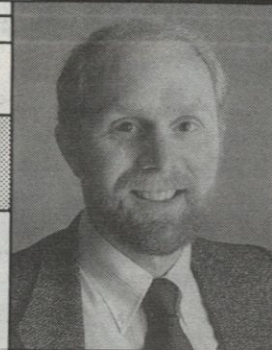
INDIANA												
Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts						
Thompson	32	4-11	0-0	1-9	0	3	8					
Person	43	10-20	7-9	0-4	4	3	32					
Dreiling	7	0-3	0-0	1-3	0	3	0					
Williams	40	7-14	9-9	0-2	10	6	23					
Miller	42	7-17	6-6	1-4	2	5	22					
Schrempf	38	7-12	6-8	2-6	1	3	20					
Smits	12	2-4	2-2	0-0	2	6	6					
Fleming	18	2-5	2-3	3-3	6	3	6					
Sanders	8	1-1	2-2	0-0	1	2	4					
TOTALS	240	40-87	34-39	8-31	24	30	121					

FG% 46.0; FT% 87.2; Three-pt. goals: 7-17, 41.2% (Person 5-9, Miller 2-7, Schrempf 0-1); Team Rebounds: 12; Blocked: 6 (Thompson 3, Miller 2, Fleming 1); Turnovers: 16 (Thompson 3, Person 3, Williams 3, Miller 3, Schrempf 1, Smits 1, Fleming 1, Sanders 1); Steals: 9 (Person 2, Williams 2, Miller 2, Fleming 1, Sanders 2); Technical Fouls: Smits 2:38 (3rd); Illegal Defense: none.

BOSTON

	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts
Bird	33	12-19	8-10	2-9	7	2	32
Gamble	13	1-1	0-2	0-0	2	2	2
Parish	40	7-11	7-10	3-8	3	4	21
Shaw	35	4-11	5-6	1-7	9	3	13
Lewis	42	10-17	2-2	0-6	3	3	22
Smith, D.	22	5-9	2-2	2-2	1	5	12
Brown	21	2-8	0-0	2-4	2	4	4
McHale	25	4-9	5-6	2-6	0	5	13
Pinckney	9	2-2	1-2	2-4	0	1	5
TOTALS	240	47-87	30-40	14-48	27	29	124
O-0; FFW 75.0; Three-point goals: 0/7; 0.0% (0-0) (0-0) (0-0)							
1-1, Bird; 1-1, Brown; 1-1, Brown; 3-3, Brown; 3-3, Brown; 2-2, Brown; 2							

FG% 54.0; FT% 75.0; Three-pt. goals: 0-7, 0.0% (Bird 0-5, Smith 0-1, Brown 0-1); Team Rebounds: 13; Blocked: 6 (Parish 2, Gamble 1, Lewis 1, Brown 1, McHale 1); Turnovers: 20 (Bird 4, Gamble 2, Parish 3, Shaw 4, Lewis 4, Brown 2, McHale 1); Steals: 11 (Bird 1, Shaw 1, Lewis 3, Smith 1, Brown 2, McHale 2, Pinckney 1); Technical Fouls: McHale 2:38 (3rd); Illegal Defense: none.



The Fan's Eyeview

By Glenn Rifkin

When you read this, the Celtics will be battling the Detroit Pistons for a chance to go to the Eastern Finals. They possibly will already be in those finals or home for the summer. Nothing more frustrating for a columnist than a two-week lead time during the playoffs.

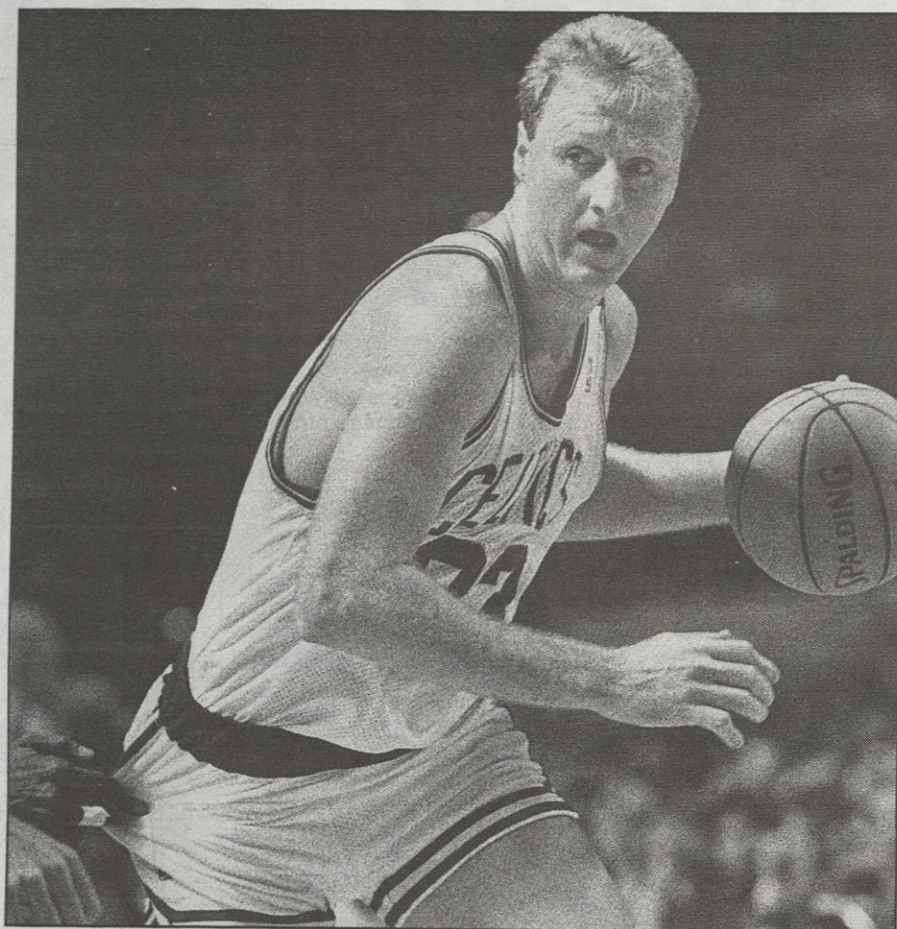
That's alright, though, because we have already witnessed one of the most remarkable playoff series in a long, long time. The Finals will have to go a long way to be sweeter than the Celtics-Pacers matchup. This little gem had everything with a capital E. It deserved to go seven. Thank goodness it didn't because this correspondent might have expired if two more games had to be played.

I can't imagine more drama. A new villain emerged; a perfect villain — young, tough, talented and a bigggggg talker. Andrew Toney was never like this. Bill Laimbeer is just a jerk, nothing more. Charles Barkley is too cuddly. Chuck Connors Person is everything you could want in a villain and more. The best thing about him at this writing is that he is home for the summer, probably putting together a scrapbook of his sudden fame.

Chuck, I salute you. Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to avoid disappearing into your own ego next season. You may have turned a career corner here in front of the entire nation. Seize the day, baby.

Which brings me to the rest of this little tet-a-tet. Derek Smith is a Genuine Hero, bar none. I still can't believe this was the same guy telling us all year how bad his knee is and how he doesn't think he'll ever be back. This guy is back. Sign him up. He is the mean, kickass, SOB that this team must have.

Larry Showed The Pacers What Greatness Is



Bird will truly be remembered as the best there ever was.

Kevin McHale. I hope the Hall of Fame is cutting out some granite with his face on it. If he had a healthy ankle, he'd be illegal. Detlef Schrempf is on this list, yubetcha. He might look like a German chicken, but this fellow can play. So can Reggie Miller

and Michael Williams. Williams is simply a skinny Tim Hardaway. Fame is there if he wants it. Reggie Miller, an assassin, but a jerk. Watch him cheat for cheap fouls. Oooh, we hate Reggie.

The Celtics. You guys are definitely try-

ing to kill me at a young age. I am only happy that Chris Ford is riding herd on this team because I don't think anyone else could do it. Chris is the coach of the year, don't let anyone tell you different.

Which brings me to the point of all this blather. You see, it doesn't matter what happens anymore this year. I thought it did until I watched Larry Bird in this series. I thought I had seen courage and determination and excellence before. After all, I'd seen Nolan Ryan toss a fastball. I'd seen Bobby Orr skate up the ice. I'd seen Magic Johnson lead a fast break.

But I hadn't seen anything and neither have you until you saw Larry Bird against Indiana. I've watched this miracle man for his entire career in Boston. He's done everything four or five times over. And he's done it yet again.

Basketball is a team game. Ask Michael Jordan about that. But Larry Bird essentially pulled his team over a great big hump all by himself. He put down the pain (excuse me Mr. Back Surgeon, I'll be with you as soon as I'm through here), picked up the ball and said, "Follow me, boys, and I'll show you to the other side."

He showed that he could rise, like the phoenix from the ashes, and do the impossible. He bathed in cliches and then chuckled when the masses gasped. He dribbled his head off the parquet, chugged off for a couple of aspirin and came out Willis Reed-style to take the team home.

Bob Hill and the Indiana Pacers will spend the summer thinking about a lot of things. First and foremost that they would have survived the first round of the playoffs if it wasn't for a man named Bird. He simply wouldn't let them win. Chuck Person can hoot and holler all he wants, but he must live with that thought for the next year. He may play for ten more years in this league and might bring his game up a few notches, but Chuck Person, no matter how much he toots, will never tie Larry's shoes.

And that's no insult to Chuck. No one else will tie those shoes either. Bird showed the fans what greatness is, over and over and over in this series. He knows his playing days are numbered now. But he is assured, in the minds of those who truly know and love this game, of being remembered as the best there ever was.

CELTICS BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE...

ORDER NOW WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Complete your collection of CELTICS PRIDE

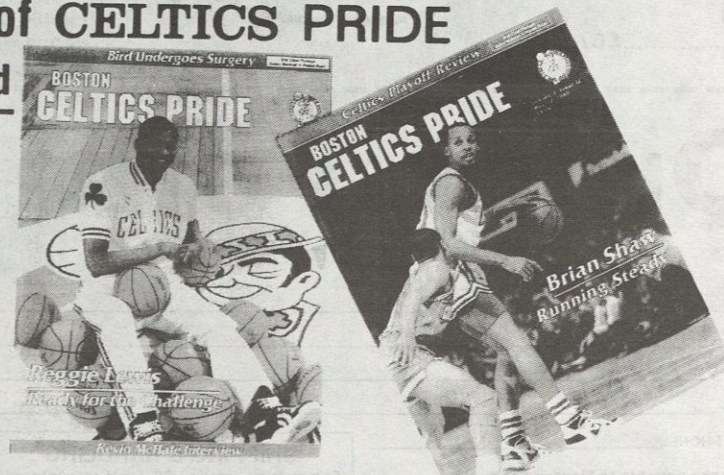
Only \$4.00 per issue Postage and Handling Included

THESE ISSUES ARE STILL IN STOCK ... ORDER NOW!

VOLUME 3
Issue 1 — Reggie Lewis
Issue 4 — Darren Davis
Issue 5 — Kevin McHale
Issue 6 — Jerry Sichting
Issue 8 — Dirk Minniefield
Issue 10 — Robert Parish
Issue 11 — Jim Paxson
Issue 12 — Dennis Johnson
Issue 14 — K.C. Jones
Issue 15 — Red Auerbach
Issue 16 — Atlanta Series
Issue 17 — Jimmy Rodgers
Issue 18 — Golf Tourney
Issue 19 — Celtics Cruise
Issue 20 — Paddio & Shaw

VOLUME 4
Issue 2 — Reggie Lewis
Issue 3 — Boston Garden
Issue 6 — Dennis Johnson
Issue 7 — Danny Ainge
Issue 8 — Kevin McHale
Issue 9 — Kleine & Pinckney
Issue 10 — Jimmy Rodgers
Issue 11 — Larry Bird
Issue 12 — Brian Shaw
Issue 13 — K.C. Jones
Issue 15 — Mike Smith
Issue 16 — Kevin McHale
Issue 17 — Greg Norman
Issue 18 — John Bagley
Issue 20 — Kevin McHale

VOLUME 5
Issue 1 — Robert Parish
Issue 2 — DJ/Holidays
Issue 4 — Soul of the Celtics
Issue 5 — Coaches Courageous
Issue 6 — Reggie Lewis
Issue 7 — All Stars
Issue 8 — Brian Shaw
Issue 9 — Kevin McHale
Issue 10 — Joe Kleine
Issue 12 — Kevin McHale
Issue 13 — Dave Gavott
Issue 14 — Chris Ford
Issue 15 — Dee Brown
Issue 16 — Rookie Camp
Issue 17 — Shaw & Ford
Issue 18 — Reggie Lewis
Issue 19 — Dee Brown
Issue 20 — Larry Bird



To order, please use the order form on page 29.

#1 DRAFT CHOICE OF CELTIC FANS



CELTICS' PRIDE



Kodak's PRIDE



CAPTURE ALL THE GLORY OF CELTICS BASKETBALL WITH
NEW KODACOLOR GOLD FILM... KODAK'S MOST REALISTIC
COLOR PRINT FILM EVER.



Show Your True Colors

KODACOLOR GOLD IS A TRADEMARK. © EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, 1988.